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CBI told to respond to Chidambaram's plea for bail in INX Media case

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SC extends interim protection from arrest to Gautam Navlakha

page 10



Toll in Iraq clashes rises to 44; PM Mehdi says no magical solution

page 12

Elgar, de Kock hit centuries as South Africa gives a strong reply

page 15



NEARBY



Court suspects NEET irregularities nationwide

CHENNAI

Unable to find out why the National Testing Agency has failed to put in place a system to prevent illegalities like impersonation in the NEET, the Madras High Court on Friday suspected that the illegality of clearing the test through proxies would have happened across the country, not only in Tamil Nadu.

In the State so far, five students and their parents are under scrutiny.

TAMIL NADU ► PAGE 5

BJP to support AIADMK in byelections

CHENNAI

The BJP will extend its support to the AIADMK during the campaign for the elections to Vikravandi and Nanguneri, continuing the alliance formed for the Lok Sabha election. On Friday, AIADMK leader and Fisheries Minister D. Jayakumar met senior BJP leaders at the State BJP headquarters, Kamalalayam, to formally request the party for support.

TAMIL NADU ► PAGE 5

METROPLUS ► SEC I - 8 PAGES, SEC II - 4 PAGES (CIRCULATED IN TIRUPPUR & COIMBATORE DISTRICTS)

Central bank's 25 bps rate cut leaves market disappointed

FY20 GDP forecast revised down to 6.1% from 6.9% due to slowing growth

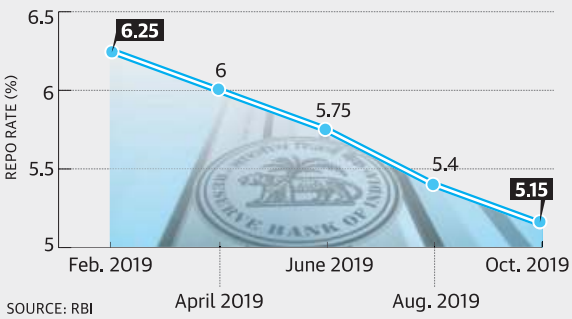
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) delivered another rate cut on Friday – the fifth in as many policy review meetings to boost a slowing economy. However, it failed to cheer the market, which was betting on a bigger rate reduction.

The six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) decided to cut interest rates by 25 basis points (bps) to 5.1%, with five members voting in favour of the quantum and R.H. Dholakia for a 40 bps cut (100 bps = 1 percentage point). “The MPC also decided to continue with an accommodative stance as long as it is necessary to revive growth, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target,” the RBI said.

Free fall

The RBI made another rate cut on Friday, the fifth in as many policy review meetings, to boost a slowing economy



SOURCE: RBI

The central bank also revised its growth forecast for the current financial sharply, from 6.9% projected in the August policy, to 6.1%. Growth forecast for the first quarter of the next financial year was also trimmed to

7.2% from 7.4%.

Inflation forecast for the second half of FY20 has been retained at 3.5-3.7%.

“Noting that the output gap has widened since its last meeting, the MPC was of the view that the continuing

slowdown warrants intensified efforts to restore the growth momentum... As long as the growth momentum remains as it is and till the growth is revived, the RBI will continue to remain in an accommodative mode,” RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said in the post-policy interaction with the media.

The rate cut comes after GDP growth for the first quarter of the current financial year plunged to a 25-quarter low of 5%. Between February and now, the central bank has reduced the policy rate by 135 bps.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

SENSEX TANKS FOR FIFTH

STRAIGHT SESSION ► PAGE 13

MODERATE EXPECTATIONS

► EDITORIAL

49 booked for sedition for anti-lynching letter

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI/
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A case of alleged sedition has been registered in Bihar's Muzaffarpur against 49 celebrities, including Ramchandra Guha, Aparna Sen, Mani Ratnam and Adoor Gopalakrishnan, who had expressed concern in an open letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over growing incidents of mob lynching.

Mr. Gopalakrishnan termed the decision “unbelievable”.

Addressing mediapersons on the sidelines of the release of an Islamic encyclopaedia on Friday, he said the letter was written by responsible citizens who visualised the nation as a democracy with space for plural opinions.

He reiterated that they could not be branded anti-national just because they did not agree with the government. “We are still a de-

The letter raised apprehension over mob lynchings of the poor. Will they kill a man who has power and force him to chant Jai Shri Ram? Using Rama's name as a killing cry is terrible



ADOOR GOPALAKRISHNAN, FILMMAKER

mocracy and every citizen has the right to write to those in power, up to the President,” he said.

The letter, he said, had raised apprehension over mob lynchings of the poor. “Will they kill a man who has power and force him to chant Jai Shri Ram?” Using Rama's name as a “killing cry” was terrible, he said.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

Shooting down of Mi-17 was a big mistake, admits IAF chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force (IAF) Mi-17 helicopter crash on February 27 in Kashmir was caused by friendly fire and was a “big mistake”, Air Chief Marshal (ACM) R.K.S. Bhaduria said on Friday.

The crash claimed the lives of all six personnel on board and one civilian on

the ground. “The Court of Inquiry (CoI) into the accident completed its work last week... Disciplinary action will be taken against two officers involved in the crash,” said ACM Bhaduria, who took over as the 26th Air chief on September 30 from B.S. Dhanoa.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10



Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhaduria in New Delhi on Friday. • R.V. MOORTHY

SC halts declaration of Radhapuram result

MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Friday completed a recount of 1,508 postal votes and over 15,700 votes polled in electronic voting machines (EVM) during the 2016 Radhapuram Assembly elections, in which the AIADMK's I.S. Inbadurai defeated the DMK's M. Appavu by a slender margin of 49 votes.

However, the results could not be declared owing to an interim order passed by the Supreme Court even as the recount was on.

On Tuesday, Justice G. Jayachandran of the High Court ordered a recount of postal ballots as well as votes polled in 34 EVMs, counted by election officials during the 19th, 20th and 21st rounds on May 19, 2016. The order was in response to an

election petition filed by Mr. Appavu, urging the court to set aside the election of Mr. Inbadurai.

In accordance with the order, the recount began in the High Court premises on Friday. Within hours, the Supreme Court heard an appeal by the MLA, challenging the High Court order, and restrained the latter from declaring the results of the fresh count. The interim or-

der passed by Justices Arun Mishra and S. Ravindra Bhat read: “Counting process may go on. However, results will not be declared. List on October 23, 2019.”

The recount took almost the entire day as the candidates as well as their representatives scrutinised each and every postal ballot and continued to raise objections on their admissibility.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 5



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IN BRIEF

Ten-day Sanskrit classes
COIMBATORE
Samskrita Bharati, a voluntary organisation, will organise 10-day spoken Sanskrit classes at over 15 places in Coimbatore and Pollachi from October 10.
According to a release, the classes are free and will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. between October 10 and 19.
Interested may contact 94433 94367 or 97511 04024.

Breast cancer awareness
COIMBATORE
Medical professionals from PSG Comprehensive Cancer Care Clinics said that patients with breast cancer in India tend to be 10 years younger than their Western counterparts.
On the occasion of Breast Cancer Awareness month, the doctors said here on Friday that 48% of patients affected by breast cancer in India were less than 50 years of age.
They added that Indian women tend to have more aggressive breast cancer and have higher mortality when compared to the Western patients, a press release said.

Bloody, gory and glorious

A superlative performance by Dhanush underlines this mesmerising revenge tale

PRADEEP KUMAR
Asuran is the fastest Vetri Maaran has ever worked on a film.
And that helps with its defining aspect – *Asuran* is Vetri Maaran's simplest film yet. But the subliminal messaging also makes it the most complicated socio-political film he has shot till date.
For instance, the conflict is between the folks of Vaddakkur (Northerners) and Thekkur (Southerners). There is conflict over land (a sharp dialogue suggests how even the very little owned by the have-nots are coveted by the rich and greedy) and there is conflict over caste (a second half sequence involving footwear). Right at the end comes the dialogue about how the powerful may snatch away lands and money, but not education.
But *Asuran*'s universe is based on a Tamil novel *Vek-kai* (written by Poomani), which Vetri Maaran and Manimaran have adapted into a feature-length screenplay. He invites us into this rustic world inhabited by Sivasamy (Dhanush, in a stellar performance) right at the start of the film. The plot is simple: several incidents unfold in the lives of Sivasamy and his



family after a dispute with an upper-caste family who are landowners, and hold all the money, influencing the social hierarchy. Sivasamy is thus forced to fight to save his family.
The base emotion that threads together this plot is revenge – a recurring element in Vetri Maaran's films. But here, his protagonist doesn't give into this primal emotion, at least not at the beginning. He is even chided by his family members for being weak. All that changes in a beautifully-filmed sequence right before the interval, where Sivasamy reveals a side unknown to his younger son (Ken, in a strong role). Still, when presented with an opportunity to slay the henchman who murdered his eldest son, Sivasamy shies away. His un-

ease is explained in a flashback sequence that makes up much of the second half, and which leads the viewers towards what is a predictable climax.
Watching *Asuran*, I could not help but think if Vetri Maaran felt restricted by the book at some point of time, considering how unreal Sivasamy's universe reacts to the happenings. The film is set in the late 1950s-early 1960s for the flashback sequence, and the 1980s in the other portions. But the passage of time only seem to reflect on the actors' physical being – nothing that happens in the plot seem out of place even today. It also made me wonder what would it take for Vetri Maaran to film a feature that explicitly discusses caste and social hierarchy.

Asuran
DIRECTOR: Vetri Maaran
CAST: Dhanush, Manju Warrier, Ken Karunas, Pasupathy, 'Aadukalam' Naren, Nithish Veera
STORYLINE: One man's fight to protect his family from those baying for their blood ends in a bloodbath

I could also not help but think just how wonderful an actor we have amongst us in Dhanush. He gives a subdued performance as Sivasamy, and that therein is proof of the actor's brilliance. It is amazing to think just how far ahead he is of his contemporaries. Manju Warrier could not have asked for a better film to debut in Tamil; her Pachiammal only lends credence to her abilities as an actor par excellence.
Teejay Arunasalam (as Velmurugan) and Ken (as Chidambaram) are just the perfect fits for the role, and it is remarkable how Vetri Maaran gets his casting right every single time. One thing he did not get right was the dubbing. Save a few portions, the slang had to be re-worked quite a few times by the actors, and it shows.

BU Principals' association condemns AUT

STAFF REPORTER
COIMBATORE
The Association of Principals of Colleges of Bharathiar University condemned the Association of University Teachers (AUT) for recommending the setting up of a new Search Committee to recommend names for the post of Vice-Chancellor.
In a statement released on Friday, K. Karunakaran, President of the Principals Asso-

ciation, accused the AUT of bringing up "baseless charges" against the members of the Search Committee "with a motive."
"This demand of the AUT will lead the University to a turbulent situation in administrative matters," Mr. Karunakaran said, noting that the varsity had not had a Vice-Chancellor for two years.
On October 2, members

of the AUT appealed to Governor Banwarilal Purohit to dissolve the Search Committee and constitute a new one.
The AUT accused the committee of bias in the short-listing of names for the V-C post.
Mr. Karunakaran said the Search Committee had short-listed 10 candidates, who would be interviewed on October 15.

IRCTC to operate two special trains in October

STAFF REPORTER
COIMBATORE
The South Zone of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) will operate two trains under the Bharat Darshan Tourist Train initiative in October, officials said here on Thursday. In a press release, L. Subramani, Manager of IRCTC South Zone, said that Pancha Dwarka Yatra train would cover Nath Dwara, Kankroli Dwaraka, Dakor Dwaraka, Dwaraka and Bet Dwaraka from October 12 to October 21 and Diwali Ganga Snan train will cover Puri, Konark, Gaya, Varanasi and Allahabad from October 23 to October 31.
Both these trains would start in Madurai and travel via Dindigul, Karur, Erode, Salem, Jolarpettai, Katpadi, Chennai Central, Nellore and Vijayawada. The cost for the Pancha Dwarka Yatra would be ₹ 9,450 for a person and the Diwali Ganga Snan ₹ 8,505 for a person, the release said.

Features of the tour would be sleeper class travel, accommodation in non-AC halls and dharmshalas, non-AC road transfers, south Indian vegetarian food and presence of tour escorts and security for each coach in the train. The Bharat Darshan Tourist Trains crossed more than 340 operations since its inception in 2005, Mr. Subramani said.
Brahmaputra Theerthadanam tour
IRCTC also announced a special AC train for the Brahmaputra Theerthadanam tour from November 13. The tour would cover Kolkata, Guwahati, River Brahmaputra, Shillong and Cheerapunji in 12 days. The package cost would be ₹ 45,820 for third AC, ₹ 49,540 for second AC and ₹ 57,700 for first AC, the release said. Interested may contact IRCTC at 9003140665 and 9003140680 for details.

'Give equal powers to all local bodies'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE
The Association of Registered Professional Engineers has urged the State government to delegate equal powers to all local bodies. In a letter to the Director of Town and Country Planning, it said the Directorate should accord powers to local bodies to approve plans of residential buildings measuring up to 10,000 sq.ft., just as it had done for the

Chennai Corporation.
Prior to the revision, all local bodies had powers to approve plans of residential buildings up to 4,000 sq.ft. But after the revision, the Chennai Corporation had powers to approve plans of buildings up to 10,000 sq.ft., and other local bodies only 7,000 sq.ft.
The Association called for raising the limit for approving plans for commercial buildings up to 500 sq.m.

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File No.: AIIMS/BBSR/Engg./ 524 /2019-20 Dated: 03rd Oct 2019

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The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar invites e-Tender for the Work "Signage Work for Supply & Installation of different Signage Systems at entire Premises of AIIMS, Bhubaneswar" (NIT No.: AIIMS/BBSR/Engg./ 018 /2019-20). The detailed Tender Document along with Last Date & Time of Submission of Tender can be viewed & downloaded from the website www.aiimsbhubaneswar.nic.in, www.tenderwizard.com/AIIMSBBSR & CPP Portal www.eprocure.gov.in.
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SUNDAY, OCT. 06			
☀️ RISE	06:11	🌇 SET	18:10
🌙 RISE	13:09	🌅 SET	00:03
MONDAY, OCT. 07			
☀️ RISE	06:11	🌇 SET	18:09
🌙 RISE	13:57	🌅 SET	00:55

Coimbatore Weather	max	min
Udhagamandalam	21	10
Tirupur	35	24
Coimbatore City	35	24

Coimbatore Airport Today
34°C Light drizzle expected in some pockets. The morning will be comfortable. A warm afternoon. A cloudy sky to persist.

Coimbatore Airport Tomorrow
33°C Drizzle expected. Sky will be cloudy. A warm afternoon.

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DVAC raid at RTO office

STAFF REPORTER
COIMBATORE

Officials from the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) raided the premises of Regional Transport Officer's Office (RTO) - North in Peelamedu on Friday. According to DVAC sources, the RTO staff allowed brokers to provide driving licences, registration certificates and fitness certificates to vehicle drivers in exchange for money.

At the time of filing this report, the raid was going on and the officials seized nearly ₹ 80,000. The RTO staff were questioned by the DVAC officials, according to sources.

IN BRIEF

Air Force recruitment rally
COIMBATORE

Indian Air Force will conduct a recruitment rally at Bharathiar University on October 17 and 21. The recruitment will be held for Group X (education instructor) at the Indoor Stadium, Department of Physical Education. Candidates must bring all their original educational certificates or its self-attested photocopies with a letter from the college principal, a release said. For details, contact 044-22390561/5553 or co.8asc-trn@gov.in and visit www.airmenselection.cdac.in

CRI Pumps to adopt 11 govt. schools
CRI Pumps on Friday announced that it would adopt 11 government schools for a period of five years. The initiative would be part of its corporate social responsibility activity, a press release said. R. Murugan, Chief Education Officer, Coimbatore, presented the memorandum of understanding to R. Boopathy, Chief Marketing Officer, CRI Pumps and GV Ravi, president, Siddhapudur Corporation Higher Secondary School Alumni Association, the release said.

THE HINDU
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Sri Krishna Sweets Presents Paadi Magilvom Bagavan Naamam Spiritual Bajan by Shri.Raghunathdass Maharaj, Vishwa Varakari Samsthan, Kadayannallur on 6thOctober 2019, 6.30 pm at Ramar Kovil, Ramnagar, Coimbatore. All are Welcome.

Multi-level two-wheeler parking lot opens at railway station today

The facility has four levels and has a capacity to park 1,200 vehicles

STAFF REPORTER
COIMBATORE

After a long wait, the multi-level parking lot for two-wheelers at Coimbatore railway station will be functional from Saturday. A railway official told *The Hindu* the parking facility would be open from midnight on Saturday. "A formal inauguration will take place in the next one or two months," the official said. The function would be attended by senior officials from Southern Railway. The parking lot has four levels and has a capacity to park 1,200 two-wheelers. The charges are ₹ 10 for the first four hours, ₹ 20 for the



The parking lot would reduce congestion in front of the Coimbatore railway station. *S. SIVA SARAVANAN

next four to 12 hours and ₹ 25 for the next 12 to 24 hours, according to the official. The construction of the two-wheeler parking lot began in 2015, with lack of

funds being the reason for the delay in its inauguration, the official said. The parking lot was intended only for two-wheelers and there were no immi-

nent plans for a multi-level car parking facility at the station. However, the parking lot would reduce congestion in front of the railway station, the official said.

Following the collapse of the railway parcel office building on August 8 that claimed two lives, the parcel services would be operated from the ground floor of the parking lot building. Till then, two-wheelers would be allowed to park in the first and second floors along with the basement of the building.

The construction of the new parcel office was expected to be completed by 2020, the official said.

Walkathon held

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India, Coimbatore chapter, celebrated Foundation Day on Friday on the theme Fit India - Fit ICSI.

According to a press release, walkathon, blood donation camp, and health camp were organised at Hindusthan College of Arts and Science here. C.S. Govindarajan, Registrar of Companies, was the chief guest.

The college students took part in the three-km walkathon to create awareness on Fit India - Fit ICSI. The health camp was open to all. About 90 company secretary students, company secretaries, college students and faculty donated blood.

This is part of the nationwide programme organised by the Institute.

the district, the release said.

Tiruppur
District Collector and District Election Officer K. Vijayakarthy released the draft electoral rolls at the Collectorate.

The draft rolls comprised eligible voters from the Tiruppur Corporation, five municipalities, 16 town panchayats and 13 panchayat unions. A total of 20,63,638 voters are present in all the local bodies. There are 10,29,380 male voters and 10,34,034 female voters and the number of third gender voters is 224, according to a release.

Our Staff Reporter adds from Udhagamandalam
The Nilgiris has a total of 5,57,693 eligible voters, according to the draft electoral rolls released by the district administration on Friday.

Of the total number of voters, 2,69,899 are men,

2,87,787 are women and seven from the third gender. A total of 3.12 lakh voters are in urban areas while 2.45 lakh voters live in rural areas.

The Udhagamandalam Municipality has the maximum number of voters among the four municipalities of Udhagamandalam, Coonoor, Gudalur and Nelliyaalam with 72,708, while Coonoor has 33,843 voters, and Gudalur and Nelliyaalam have 37,642 and 32,444 voters respectively. Among the 11 town panchayats in the district, Kotagiri has the most number of voters, with 22,818, while Ketti has 19,256 voters. Of the total number of voters in the district, 1,35,457 are residing in the 11 town panchayats.

The Nilgiris Collector J. Innocent Divya said that there were 788 total wards in the Nilgiris, and that 3,400 polling machines would be used to conduct polling for the local body elections.

Public, private sector banks reach out to customers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

Representatives of banks met customers, explained the products that the banks offer, and even gave in principle approvals at an outreach programme organised by the District Lead Bank - Canara Bank - here on Friday.

The two-day programme in Coimbatore (October 4 and 5) at Suguna Kalyana Mandapam has the participation of both public and private sector banks.

There are stalls by some of the government departments too.

District Lead Bank Manager S. Venkataraman said the banks were focusing on re-



Bank representatives interacting with customers at an outreach programme in the city on Friday. *S. SIVA SARAVANAN

tail, agriculture, and MSME loans. The bank representatives explained the various loan products and directed the interested customers to the branches. If the custom-

ers came with the documents, in principle approval was also given. The outreach programme was on for almost a week now at all the bank branches too. Some of

the loans would be disbursed on Saturday at the valedictory of the programme. "This (the outreach programme) is only for fresh loans. In rural areas, the branches are reaching out to customers," he said. Coimbatore district has 830 bank branches in total.

The loan applications that were received at the branches during the last one week were processed and the loans would be disbursed on Saturday.

Though details of total amount sanctioned by the banks will be known only on Saturday, it is learnt that one or two banks have given approval for even ₹150 crore to MSMEs.

The Hindu invites readers to recommend habits for Coimbatore

STAFF REPORTER
COIMBATORE

As part of the golden jubilee celebrations of *The Hindu* in Coimbatore, the newspaper invites its readers to recommend habits that they want to adopt for the betterment of the city.

Readers shall choose to write to habits@thehindu.co.in or use the hashtag #HabitsofCoimbatore on social media platforms. The top habits will be propagated by *The Hindu* through editorial features, on-ground and social media engagement.

Some examples of habits recommended by the readers as of now include adher-



ing to traffic rules, allowing ambulances to drive smoothly through traffic, water conservation, composting of kitchen waste, setting up dog park, reduction of noise levels of vehicle horns, encouraging the use of bicycles to reduce air pol-

lution and planting at least one tree every six months.

Being a brand associated with the everyday lives of people of Coimbatore for the past 50 years, *The Hindu* attempts this initiative to make the city safer, greener and stronger.

This Reader's Contest marks the third phase of *The Hindu's* golden jubilee celebrations following the special supplement edition brought out on July 27 and reader engagement activities held in August such as 'Open House', an interaction between the readers and senior staff of the newspaper and 'Rewind Coimbatore', a two-day photo exhibition.

Probe on into passport fraud: Q Branch

STAFF REPORTER
COIMBATORE

Investigations are continuing in two cases of obtaining of passports with forged documents. In one case, a man was arrested in Coimbatore and in the other raids were carried out on a former Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam functionary in Tiruppur, Q branch police said on Friday. But, it is not clear yet whether the two cases had any link.

On Thursday, the Q Branch police arrested A. Ragupathy (48) in Gana-

pathy Pudur on charges of arranging for Indian passport for Sri Lankan refugees, using forged documents. Earlier in the day, the Q Branch police raided the residence and office premises of former DMK functionary Rajmohan Kumar at Odakkadu in Tiruppur, following his arrested in Chennai on September 24 for passport fraud.

"We do not have enough evidence to show that these two cases are linked," Q Branch officers from Coimbatore said. Anandakumar,

an alleged associate of Ragupathy, was arrested in Pudukkottai on October 1. He was from a Sri Lankan refugee camp in Tiruppur, the officers said.

A Q Branch police officer from Tiruppur said on Friday that Anandakumar was being probed and that no raids in the refugee camps had been ordered yet. Rajmohan Kumar, who was brought to Tiruppur on Thursday, was taken back to Chennai in the evening following the raids, the officer said.

Fourth Additional Subordinate Court inaugurated

STAFF REPORTER
COIMBATORE

In an effort to expedite pending cases, a Fourth Additional Subordinate Court was inaugurated at the Combined Court Complex here on Friday. R. Sakthivel, Principal District Judge, inaugurated it.

According to court officials, K. Krishnapriya, who was the judge of Third Additional Subordinate Court, was posted as the judge of Fourth Additional Subordinate Court.

"This court will help reduce of pendency of cases



The court will reduce pendency of cases and ensure speedy trials. *S. SIVA SARAVANAN

and ensure speedy trials," the officials said.

Nearly 300 cases have been transferred from the Third Additional Subordi-

nate Court to the Fourth Additional Subordinate Court. Hearings on the cases began on Friday, the officials added.

Policeman denies allegations

STAFF REPORTER
COIMBATORE

A special sub-inspector, who was seen demanding money from a group of youth in Karunya Nagar in a video that went viral on social media, denied allegations of bribery on Friday. He told *The Hindu* he found one of the youths seen in the video not wearing helmet despite carrying one on his two-wheeler and asked him to pay the fine amount. The officer claimed that the incident happened on September 26.

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Ref: 1.Tender Notification No. KDL/ Re-TND/ARV/52/2019-20, date: 03/10/2019 (IND-623). 2.Tender Notification No. KDL/TND/ASV/63/2019-20, date: 03/10/2019 (IND-624). Nation wide Tender is invited through e-Tendering system under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tender:

1. Tender for Supply of Anti Rabies Vaccines.
2. Tender for Supply of Anti Snake Venom.

The tenderers who have registered under e-Procurement department may participate through e-tendering system. Details regarding EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information are available in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> from 03.10.2019. The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.

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Puthiya Tamilagam expresses unhappiness with AIADMK

Party leader rues delay in grouping and removing six communities from SC list

B. KOLAPPAN
CHENNAI

Expressing unhappiness over the delay in grouping together six communities in the Scheduled Caste list as ‘Devendrakula Vellalas’ and removing them from the list, Puthiya Tamilagam leader K. Krishnasamy said working with ruling AIADMK in future elections would be difficult unless a Government Order re-classifying the community from the SC list was issued.

In a letter to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami, Dr. Krishnasamy, who unsuccessfully contested in the Tenkasi Parliamentary seat on the AIADMK’s ‘Two Leaves’ symbol, said the communities were not demanding any special status or a separate state, but only reclamation of their ‘ancient title’ as Devendrakula Vellalas.

“I request you to fulfil the promise made during the [2019 Lok Sabha] election in the interest of strengthening our alliance in future,” he added. Dr. Krishnasamy had al-



K. Krishnasamy also called for a meeting to discuss the failure of the AIADMK-led alliance in the Lok Sabha polls. • FILE PHOTO

so drawn the Chief Minister’s attention that no meeting had been convened to discuss the failure of the AIADMK and its allies in the Lok Sabha polls.

“Election results may not have favoured us due to many reasons. But what is important is that we should dis-

cuss in threadbare the issues that led to the outcome. You promised that the alliance formed for the Lok Sabha polls will continue for the local body polls and the Assembly polls,” he said.

The argument of Dr. Krishnasamy was that if the AIADMK had coordinated ef-

fectively with the alliance partners, the New Justice Party candidate A.C. Shanmugam would have won in the Vellore Lok Sabha polls. “At least now you should convene a meeting of the alliance partners,” he said. Recalling his meeting with the Chief Minister along with the district secretaries of Puthiya Tamilagam, and the Chief Minister’s decision to study the proposal by IAS office Hans Raj Varma, Dr. Krishnasamy said even Prime Minister Narendra Modi supported the demand of the party in the Madurai meeting.

“The Devendrakula Vellalas favoured the AIADMK candidates in Sattur, Vilathikulam, Paramakudi, Manamadurai and Nilakottai Assembly constituencies. We won many Assembly constituencies in the South and our margin of defeat was low in Southern districts. We cannot underestimate the contribution of the Devendrakula Vellalas,” he claimed.

‘Restore train services in Madurai-Coimbatore section’

Train Users’ Association writes to MPs

S. SUNDAR
MADURAI

Train Users’ Association, Palani, has urged MPs from southern districts to take efforts to bring back Madurai-Podanur section under the Madurai Railway Division. A resolution to this effect was passed at its recently-concluded executive committee meeting. It demanded restoration of all train services on Madurai-Palani-Pollachi-Coimbatore section that were being run on the metre gauge section.

“At one point of time, we had at least 11 trains passing through Palani on Madurai-Coimbatore section. Even four years after completion of the gauge conversion work, only five trains are running through Palani, an important pilgrimage centre,” said association secretary S. Pachaimuthu.

K. Sivamohan, joint secretary, Welfare Association of Rail Passengers, Pollachi, laments that ₹700 crore spent on gauge conversion of Madurai-Coimbatore section has been rendered useless.

“Broad gauge conversion is taken up only to speed up trains and carry more luggage. But five years have passed and this section has not seen any major development. Not even those trains that were running prior to the gauge conversion work have been restored,” said M. Saravanan Kumar of the association.

The investment made by railways using tax payers’ money has not benefited the consumers. Mr. Pachaimuthu said that people have to spend more money on their bus travel. “Train journey from Palani to Dindigul costs only ₹15, while it costs ₹40 by bus. Similarly, the train journey with rest room facility will be a big relief for senior citizens for longer travel of four to five hours,” he added. A lot of office-goers used to travel in trains for their daily commute between Palani and Coimbatore, he said.

S. S. Suresh Kumar of Dindigul District Consumer Rights Protection Association said that trains used to provide better connectivity

from Rameswaram, Coimbatore and Palakkad to those coming to Oddanchatram vegetable market, one of the biggest markets in southern districts.

Mr. Sivamohan said that Southern Railway had restored many trains on Kollam-Shencottah broad gauge section that was opened recently much later than the commissioning of Madurai-Coimbatore section.

He said that on the 160 km stretch between Dindigul and Podanur, Pollachi railway station (that is 120 km) is under Madurai Railway Division. The remaining 40 km is partly under Palakkad and Salem divisions.

“If the entire 160 km is brought under Madurai division, the bureaucratic hurdles in running trains between Madurai and Coimbatore will be largely cleared,” Mr. Pachaimuthu said. The association has written to MPs, Su. Venkatesan (Madurai), P. Veluchamy (Dindigul) and K. Shanmugasundaram (Pollachi) to take up their cause with Union Railway Minister.

PMK demands CBI probe into NEET case

STAFF REPORTER
ERODE

Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) leader and Rajya Sabha MP Anbumani Ramadoss has demanded a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the NEET impersonation case that is currently being investigated by the CB-CID.

Speaking to mediapersons after addressing the students of the Kaamadhen Arts and Science College, on “Climate Emergency Declaration”, in Sathyamangalam on Friday, he said since more students could have been involved in the case, probe should be taken up by the CBI, and stringent punishment should be given for the accused.

Welcoming the decision of the Andhra Pradesh government to take over liquor shops from private players, and reduce the number of shops by 20%, Mr. Anbumani said his party’s demand was for the liquor outlets to be shut down, and added that 3,321 shops were closed across the country after they approached the Supreme Court.

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Supervisor, Despatch Dept., The Hindu Maraimalai Nagar
Passed away on 04-10-2019
21/92, Mangala Eari, Thiruvanniyur, Chennai - 41
Mob: 9962188368

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16 T.N. MLAs’ elections were set aside by courts

A look back as the results of a recount are awaited

T. RAMAKRISHNAN
CHENNAI

Sixteen Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) have lost their positions due to judicial interventions since the constitution of the State's first Assembly in May 1952.

A look back at history assumes relevance, as the Supreme Court has stayed an order of the Madras High Court, which had allowed recounting of all postal ballots and votes recorded on some Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in the case of the election to the Radhapuram Assembly constituency in 2016.

Election tribunals

The first Assembly, which was in existence from May 3, 1952, to May 31, 1957, accounted for the highest number of MLAs, 9, having been knocked out of the House. At that time, election tribunals were in place, and they had declared the legislators' elections null and void. Vacancies for all nine members were filled through byelections.

UNSEATED BY COURTS		Since May 1952, 16 MLAs in the State have lost their positions in the wake of judicial interventions	
Assembly's term	Constituency	MLA who lost membership with date of his/her election becoming void in brackets	Person who filled vacancy with date of election in bypolls or being declared an MLA in brackets
1952-57	Kattakurichi	V.T. Elaya Pillai (27-2-1953)	K. Parthasarathy (3-6-1953)
	Ranipet	S. Khadir Sherriff (26-3-1953)	K.G. Munuswami Gounder (7-5-1953)
	Mecheri	K.S. Subramania Gounder (16-4-1953)	M. Kandaswami Kandar (30-6-1953)
	Virudhunagar	V.V. Ramaswami (23-4-1953)	K. Shanmugam (20-7-1953)
	Vridhdachalam	N. Paramasivam (1-6-1953)	S. Samikannu (19-8-1953)
	Kangayam	A.K. Subbaraya Gounder (18-8-1953)	K.G. Palaniswami Thevar (9-11-1953)
	Gudiyatham (general)	A.J. Arunachalam (10-6-1954)	K. Kamaraj (4-8- 1954)
1957-62	Gudiyatham (reserved)	A.M. Rathnaswami (10-6-1954)	T. Manavalan (4-8- 1954)
	Sattankulam	K.T. Kosalram (15-11-1954)	M.S. Selvarajan (3-3-1955)
	Tiruvadanai	Kr.Rm. Kariamanickam Ambalam (21-10-1957)	S. Ramakrishna Thevar (7-4-1958)
	Alangulam	T. Veluchami (5-8-1959)	S. Pandiaraj (9-2-1960)
	Nilakkottai	K. S. Abdul Azeez (28-2-1966)	No byelection held
1962-67	Melur North	P. Malaichamy (13-3-1972)	Andi Ambalam* (13-3-1972)
1971-76	Uppiliapuram	V. Arengarajan (7-12-1983)	R. Saroja (21-5-1984)
1980-84	Cheranmahadevi	R. Puthunainar Athithan** (26-3-1996)	No byelection held
1991-96	Cheranmahadevi	P. Veldurai (13-4-2011)	No byelection held
*On March 13, 1972, the Madras High Court, while setting aside Mr. Malaichamy's election, declared Andi Ambalam elected in his place. On April 18, 1973, the Supreme Court confirmed the High Court's decision. Mr. Andi Ambalam took oath on May 31, 1973.		** On January 31, 1994, the Madras High Court declared Mr. R. Puthunainar Athithan's election of 1991 void but this was stayed by the Supreme Court on February 25, 1994. Eventually, on March 26, 1996, the Supreme Court upheld the High Court's finding.	
		Source: http://www.assembly.tn.gov.in and gazette notification issued by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice on April 10, 1997	

In August 1954, the then Chief Minister K. Kamaraj, who hailed from Virudhu Nagar in the south, and was not a member of the House then, entered the House through a bypoll to Gudiyatham, a constituency in north Tamil Nadu.

Then, Gudiyatham was a double-member constituency, with one seat earmarked

for Scheduled Castes. The election of A.J. Arunachalam and A.M. Rathinaswami, who were elected to the constituency in 1952, was declared illegal two years later. Rathinaswami, however, returned to the House in November 1955, from Thousand Lights.

The Assembly experienced an odd situation dur-

ing 1977-80, when S. Semmalai of the AIADMK had challenged at the Madras High Court the declaration of R. Narayanan of the Congress a Member of the Taramangalam seat in Salem. In February 1978, the High Court quashed the Congress legislators' election and declared Mr. Semmalai the winner.

The AIADMK leader, who now represents Mettur in the present Assembly, was sworn in as MLA immediately.

Three weeks later, the Supreme Court stayed the order of the High Court, and in September 1979, upheld the election of Mr. Narayanan. In view of the judgment of the Supreme Court, he was

FROM PAGE ONE

SC halts declaration of Radhapuram result

After completion of the process, Mr. Appavu addressed the media and hoped that the court would soon declare the results. He added that the appeal before the Supreme Court would be handled as per the advice of party leader M.K. Stalin.

On his part, Mr. Inbadurai did not address the media, citing the appeal before the apex court.

According to the Election Commission of India, the MLA had secured 69,590 votes in the 2016 elections as against Mr. Appavu's 69,541 votes. However, the latter, in his election petition, claimed that out of 1,508 postal votes polled in Radhapuram, the Returning Officer had rejected 300 votes as invalid on various grounds. A bunch of 203 postal votes were rejected on the presumption that government middle school headmasters were not gazetted officers and hence ought not to have attested the identity of voters. He

further alleged that Mr. Inbadurai had secured a total of 8,710 votes in the last three rounds of counting but the figure was inflated by 348 votes.

Witnesses examined

After examining a host of witnesses including the Returning Officer, Justice Jayachandran came to the conclusion that there was prima facie substance in the submissions made by the petitioner.

He also found that the Returning Officer had not recounted the postal votes before declaring the results though the rules mandate such a recount if the margin of victory was less than the number of postal votes polled in a particular constituency.

The judge also expressed displeasure over the Returning Officer having made a false assertion in his testimony on oath and ordered a recount of the contentious votes.

TNERC hikes miscellaneous charges

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Electricity and Regulatory Commission (TNERC) has approved an increase in certain miscellaneous charges collected by the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco), which will have an impact on new as well as existing consumers.

The new charges will come into effect from October 5, 2019.

In addition to tariff from sale of power, Tangedco also collects miscellaneous charges from consumers on account of non-tariff related charges such as service connection charges, meter rent, meter caution deposit, reconnection charges and development charges, among others.

For new consumers, the increase comes in the form of service connection charges and development charges.

For existing consumers, the hikes come in the form of charges on shifting of meter board, changing of meter, replacement of damaged/burnt meter.

A major relief has been that there is no change in security deposit and earnest money deposit.

Ahead of summit, ASI sources Korean grass from Karnataka

Landscaping on at monuments that may be visited by dignitaries

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MAMALLAPURAM

A large quantity of natural grass from Karnataka has been sourced by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for landscaping three monuments, likely to be visited by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese president Xi Jinping later this month.

About 2 lakh sq ft of Korean grass has been sourced from neighbouring Karnataka.

"Initially, we sourced it from Injambakkam, on the ECR, to improve the landscape around the monuments. But since it was not sufficient, we sourced it from Karnataka, near Mysuru," an official said.

Potted plants

The largest spread is around Krishna's Butterball, while a considerable area around the Shore Temple already has a vast lawn. Since the area around the Five Rathas have a sand spread, lawns are not being spread there.

Besides lawns around the three monuments, potted plants have been rented for decorating various locations around the town.

"The ASI is taking care of the monuments and there-



About 2 lakh sq ft of Korean grass has been sourced from neighbouring Karnataka for landscaping. ■ R. RAVINDRAN

fore, lawns are their responsibility. The rented plants are the responsibility of the panchayat office," an officer said.

Various roads and streets in the coastal town are being re-laid in multiple locations and old fence around the Shore Temple was replaced on Friday.

Stretches around the three monuments are also

being cleaned up with lawn mowers.

Senior ASI officials were on the spot, inspecting the works under way, since Friday morning.

Though there has not been much restriction on tourists, they will not be allowed into the monuments closer to the meeting dates, security personnel posted there said.

Manhunt launched in the delta for jewellery heist suspects

Alerts sounded in Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam districts

R. RAJARAM
TIRUCHI

Having detained the key suspect, Manikandan, in the Lalithaa Jewellery heist in Tiruvarur on Thursday night, the police have launched a manhunt in the delta region to nab his accomplice Suresh who escaped when intercepted by a police team.

Multiple teams were on the look out for Suresh and his relative Murugan – suspected to be the mastermind in the heist – in Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam districts, where alerts have been sounded.

Suresh, who was proceeding with Manikandan on a two-wheeler, managed to escape after throwing a bag containing jewellery, when chased by a police team for not stopping during a vehicle check at Vilamal in Tiruvarur.

A Sub-Inspector who chased Manikandan and Suresh on his two-wheeler for nearly a kilometre, managed to intercept them. While the



Nearly 4.8 kg of diamonds and gold was found inside the bag thrown by Suresh.

team caught hold of Manikandan, Suresh managed to escape. By verifying the bar codes on them, it was later established that the jewellery were the ones stolen from the showroom. Nearly 4.8 kg of stolen diamonds and gold was found inside the bag, and is believed to be the share (in the booty) of the duo.

Checks intensified

The Tiruvarur police subsequently handed over Manikandan to a special team of

the Tiruchi city police, that is probing the heist. The Deputy Commissioner of Police (crime and traffic), Tiruchi city, is heading the team, that is quizzing Manikandan, said police sources.

A senior police officer said since Suresh and Murugan hail from Tiruvarur, a manhunt has been launched in the district and in neighbouring Nagapattinam. Vehicle checks were intensified on Wednesday. Murugan is said to be a habitual offender in burglary cases, although he has not committed any such crime in the Central Zone, said the officer. He has allegedly indulged in offences in Bengaluru, and the local police are trying to obtain details from their counterparts in Karnataka.

Commissioner of Police, Tiruchi, A. Amalraj on Friday said special teams were questioning Manikandan and a few others. The remaining suspects would be tracked down soon, he added.

deemed to have been a member of the Assembly for the entire period.

A father-son story

Cheranmahadevi, which was disbanded in the 2008 delimitation, has the distinction of a father-son duo successfully challenging the elections of their rivals. Former Assembly Speaker and four-time legislator P.H. Pandian, who contested as an independent in 1991 with the support of the DMK, lost to R. Puthunainar Athithan of the AIADMK.

He had challenged the election of Mr. Athithan, which was declared void first by the High Court in January 1994, and the Supreme Court two years later.

In 2006, Mr. Pandian's son and the sitting MLA, Paul Manoj Pandian of the AIADMK, lost to P. Veldurai of the Congress, by a margin of about 6,000 votes.

His contention that the winner had subsisting contracts with the State government at the time of filing of his nomination papers, found acceptance with the Supreme Court in April 2011. Ironically, the apex court's judgment came on the day (April 13, 2011) the State went to Assembly polls.

AIADMK seeks BJP's support for bypolls

Jayakumar meets senior party leaders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The BJP will extend its support to the AIADMK during campaigning to the upcoming bypolls in two Assembly constituencies – Vikravandi and Nanguneri – continuing the alliance formed for the Lok Sabha polls.

On Friday, AIADMK leader and Fisheries Minister D. Jayakumar met senior BJP leaders at the State BJP headquarters, Kamalayam, to formally request the party for support.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, former Union Minister Pon. Radhakrishnan said AIADMK leaders had spoken multiple times to the BJP's central leadership and finalised the campaign deal.

"Today, Mr. Jayakumar came and sought our support and wanted to know who would be campaigning from our side. The talks ended fruitfully because we already have an existing alliance. We will give them a list of leaders who will be

'NEET illegalities may not be confined to T.N.'

Court impleads NTA, MHRD in case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Unable to fathom why the National Testing Agency (NTA) failed to put in place an effective system to prevent illegalities such as impersonation in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), the Madras High Court on Friday suspected that the illegality of clearing the test through proxies would have happened across the country and not just in Tamil Nadu. In the State so far, five students and their parents are under scrutiny.

A Division Bench of Justices N. Kirubakaran and P. Velmurugan suo motu impleaded the NTA, Union Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as respondents to a writ appeal and sought to know whether such impersonation in NEET had happened in any other State.

When Abdul Saleem, standing counsel for the Selection Committee in the Directorate of Medical Education, pointed out that so far, two MBBS students in the

State had been found to have gained admission in government medical colleges apart from three more, who had joined private colleges, the judges said there appeared to be more than what meets the eye.

"These things could not have happened without the active connivance of the government as well as college officials. How could you not have a system in place for verifying the credentials of those who had applied for the test and those who come to write it?," the senior judge in the Bench said.

The Division Bench directed the Crime Branch-Criminal Investigation Department (CB-CID) probing the NEET impersonation cases in the State to submit by October 15 a detailed report on the probe conducted so far.

The interim order was passed after impleading the CB-CID too as one of the respondents to a writ appeal relating to alleged irregularities in filling up non-resident Indian (NRI) quota seats in private medical colleges.

Two medicos, their fathers seek bail

STAFF REPORTER
THENI

Two medical students, Rahul and Praveen, and their parents Davis and A.K.S. Saravanan, who have been figuring in the NEET impersonation case have filed bail applications before a fast track court, as the Judicial Magistrate was on leave on Friday.

In connection with the case, seven persons have been arrested and remanded in judicial custody.

Meanwhile, Udit Surya's anticipatory bail application filed in the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court was treated as a bail application, and the court wanted to know from the CB-CID if the continued detention of the student was required. The hearing was adjourned to October 14.

CB-CID sleuths are on the hunt for suspected agents based in Bangalore and Kerala, who had allegedly facilitated impersonators for the students, after taking large sums of money from them.

Chennai floods: State told to share details on action against officials

Move follows petition demanding action for misuse of relief funds

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Information Commission has directed State authorities to share details of action taken against officials in the Chennai Corporation, Revenue and Disaster Management Departments, in connection with the alleged misuse of funds meant for flood prevention/relief operations in 2015.

The case arises out of a petition filed by a resident of Ullagam, who lodged a complaint with the Tahsildar, Sholinganallur, demanding action against officials who misused funds meant for preventing floods and relief operations after the natural calamity. He preferred the complaint months after the devastating floods caused huge loss to life and property, particularly in the southern parts of Chennai, four years ago.

'No action'

With no perceptible action taken on his complaint, the petitioner, S. Kumar, wrote to the Public Information Officer/Tahsildar, Sholinganallur, seeking to know, under Section 61(i) of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, the



The complaint was preferred months after the devastating floods caused huge loss to life and property in 2015, particularly in the southern parts of Chennai.

The public authorities have not provided information sought by the petitioner in full and on time

S. SELVARAJ
State Information Commissioner

action taken against officials based on his petition.

Not convinced with the response of the PIO and the first appellate authority, the petitioner moved the Tamil Nadu Information Commis-

sion to direct the authorities to provide the information that he sought for. The contention of the PIO was that the details wanted by Mr. Kumar was obtained from the Chennai Corporation and sent already.

State Information Commissioner S. Selvaraj who heard both sides noted that the public authorities had not provided the information sought by the petitioner in full and on time.

He directed the PIOs in the Revenue Administration

and Disaster Management Department to provide free of cost the details of action taken against officials concerned based on the complaint lodged by the petitioner and report compliance of the order.

Mr. Selvaraj also sought an explanation from the PIO/Tahsildar as to why disciplinary action should not be recommended against him and a maximum penalty of ₹25,000 be imposed under the provisions of Section 20 (2) of the Act.



IN BRIEF
A.P. Minister names tiger cub 'Jagan'
TIRUPATI
Minister for Environment and Forests Balineni Srinivasa Reddy named a newly born white tiger cub 'Jagan', during the 65th Wildlife Week celebrations at Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park in Tirupati on Friday. The cub, one of the five born to white tigers Sameer and Rani, was named 'Jagan' apparently after Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Public exam for Class VII students in Karnataka
BENGALURU
Students of Class 7 across all schools in Karnataka that follow the State syllabus will have to sit for a public examination, starting this year. The system is being reintroduced after more than 15 years. At a press meet on Friday, Primary and Secondary Education Minister S. Suresh Kumar said no student will be detained this year. However, a detention policy would be put in place for the coming academic years, he said.

Eight fishermen from Vizag held in Bangladesh

Their boat entered neighbouring country's territorial waters

SUMIT BHATTACHARJEE
VISAKHAPATNAM
Eight fishermen from Visakhapatnam, who reportedly strayed into Bangladesh territorial waters, have been detained by the Bangladesh Coast Guard.

The fishermen sailed from Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour on September 24, in a mechanised boat 'Amrutha' carrying eight crew members, reportedly for longline tuna fishing. The boat reportedly strayed into the Bangladesh territorial waters and was detained by the Bangladesh Coast Guard on October 2. "The reason is not known yet. But at times when there is an engine problem or very rough seas, the boats drift into the territorial waters of neighbouring countries," said Dolphin Boat Operators' Welfare Association president Ch. Satyanarayana Murthy. The incident came to light after one of the detained

Sri Lankan crew arrested

KERALA BUREAU
KOCHI
A Sri Lankan fishing vessel, which was seized by the Indian Coast Guard on October 1 for allegedly fishing in India's exclusive economic zone, was brought to Kochi on Friday. The six crew members on

fishermen contacted the boat owner, Vasupalli Ramu. The fishermen have been identified as Marupalli Polayya, Rayati Appanna, Vasupalli Danayya, Marupalli Narasimha, Vasupalli Appanna, Rayati Ramu, Barri Ramulu and Vasupalli Appanna. They hail from Tippalavalasa village in Vizianagaram. As per a bipartite agreement between Bangladesh and India, fishermen detained in such situations are released after the due process. "We are working to

bring them back as soon as possible," said D. Pal, general secretary, Democratic Traditional Fishers Workers Forum. Visakhapatnam MP M.V.V. Satyanarayana has written to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to take up the matter with his counterpart in Bangladesh. The family members of the fishermen met the District Collector and urged him to take up the matter with the Ministry and the embassies concerned.

Rahul offers legal help on Bandipur

He is confident of a compromise solution on the night ban issue

STAFF REPORTER
SULTHAN BATHERY

Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi on Friday said the issues related to the night traffic ban on the stretch of the Kozhikode-Kollegal National Highway 766 passing through the Bandipur Tiger Reserve in Karnataka could be resolved in an intelligent and productive way.

Expressing solidarity with the youths on an indefinite hunger strike for the past 10 days at Sulthan Batherly against the night traffic ban, Mr. Gandhi said the hardships of the public should be removed. "I am confident that a compromise solution can be reached where the people of Wayanad will benefit and also the environment can be protected." He said he was confident about a solution as such solutions had been reached in many parts of the country. He said he understood that it was a legal issue under the consideration of the Su-



Congress leader and MP Rahul Gandhi meeting protesters, who are on hunger strike against the Bandipur night traffic ban, at Sulthan Batherly in Wayanad on Friday. •PTI

preme Court, adding that he had discussed it with legal experts in his party. "I am assuring you that the best legal resources in the country will be made available for the purpose. I am standing with you and all attempts will be made intelligently and sensitively to resolve the issue," he said. Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president Ra-

mesh Chennithala, Indian Union Muslim League leader P.K. Kunhalikutty, and Congress leader K.C. Venugopal, accompanied Mr. Gandhi. **Two hospitalised** Meanwhile, two of the four youths, including Vyapari Vyavasayi Ekopana Samithi district youth wing president Shamshad Batherly and Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha

district president Prasanth, who had been staging a hunger strike for the past nine days, were arrested and shifted to hospital after their health condition worsened. Private bus operators in the district will stop services from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday and take out a march at Sulthan Batherly to express solidarity with the agitation.

Sri Lanka releases stamp on Mahatma Gandhi



Chief Postmaster General M. Sampath presenting an album to Sri Lanka Deputy High Commissioner V. Krishnamoorthy, right, in Chennai on Friday. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Event held to strengthen friendly ties between countries'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

In a warm gesture, the Department of Posts, Sri Lanka, recently released a stamp and first day cover to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. On Friday, the Department of Posts, Tamil Nadu circle, was presented with an album of the articles at an event held in the city. Organised by the Sri Lanka Deputy High Commis-

sion, Chennai, the event saw an exchange of stamps and first day covers released by Sri Lanka and India. One of the stamps depicts the picture of Mahatma Gandhi in his youth. **Album presented** Sri Lanka Deputy High Commissioner, Chennai, V. Krishnamoorthy presented the album consisting of the first day cover and stamps released by the Philatelic Bureau, Department of Posts,

Sri Lanka to M. Sampath, Chief Postmaster General, Tamil Nadu Circle. Mr. Sampath said it was an occasion organised to strengthen the friendly ties between the countries. About 40 countries have issued stamps to commemorate Gandhi's birth anniversary and 33 more countries are likely to release stamps. He, in turn, presented an album of stamps released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 2.

Farmers gherao Yediyurappa over delay in flood relief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BELAGAVI

Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, who was visiting flood-hit areas in Belagavi, had to face rate farmers protesting against the delay in distribution of flood relief by both Central and State governments. They were taken into custody when they tried to block the pilot vehicles in the Chief Minister's cavalcade. They were released later. Jayashree Gurannanavar,

one of the farmers' leaders, told reporters that the Chief Minister has been non-committal about flood relief. **'No mention of demands'** "We had made some simple demands such as increasing the quantum of crop loss compensation, giving houses to all those who lost homes, distributing seed kits to farmers for the next season, providing assistance for top soil reclamation, loan waiver, and assistance to buy

milch animals. But the Chief Minister kept saying that he would provide all possible assistance, without referring to any of our demands in concrete terms. We protested as we were desperate," she said. The police said the protesters had met Mr. Yediyurappa on two days and still were not satisfied. "They were removed as they were trying to block the road. They were let off after a warning," a senior officer said.

KCR meets Modi in Delhi, submits memo on 22 issues

Telangana CM also calls on Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh

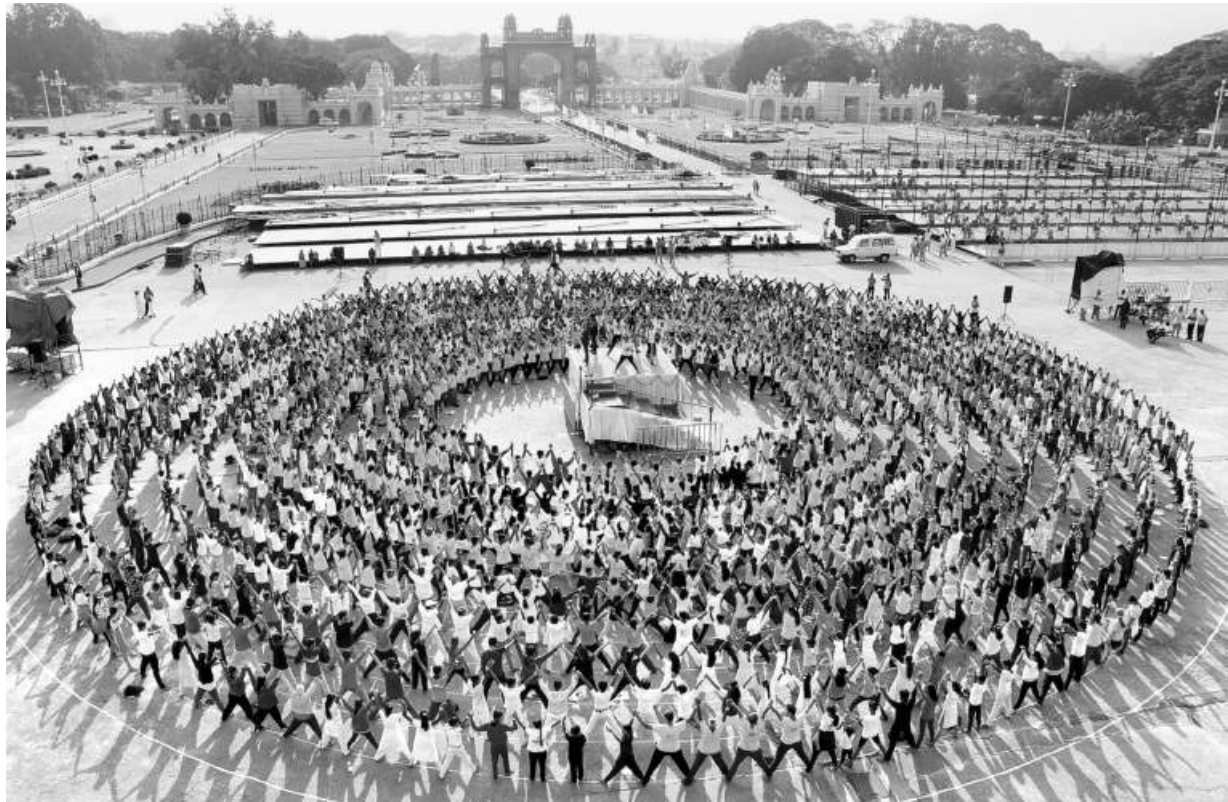
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Reddy met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi on Friday and submitted memoranda on several issues. This is Mr. Rao's first meeting with Mr. Modi after the former assumed office for the second consecutive term. Earlier, the Chief Minister called on Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. In a meeting that lasted more than an hour, Mr. Rao submitted memoranda on 22 issues and explained them to Mr. Modi. **Reorganisation Act** While most of the issues were related to the assurances given under the A.P. State

Re-organisation Act, 2014, Mr. Rao once again requested financial help for Mission Kakatiya, a programme under implementation for the revival of tanks and Mission Bhagiratha to provide piped water supply. The NITI Aayog had recommended an assistance of ₹5,000 crore and ₹19,205 crore respectively for the schemes. Mr. Rao sought release of ₹450 crore, the fifth instalment of assistance for backward districts in Telangana, establishment of an Indian Institute of Management (IIM), sanction of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), sanction of IIIT under PPP mode at Karimnagar and setting up of a National Institute of Design (NID) in Hyderabad (its location was shifted to

Visakhapatnam after bifurcation). The Chief Minister also sought 23 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNV) in the new districts and a steel plant at Bayyaram in Khammam district as assured under the State Reorganisation Act. **Railway projects** He requested the Prime Minister for funds for completion of pending railway projects in the State, revival of the Cement Corporation of India unit in Adilabad district with the help of the National Highways Authority of India, release of funds for the National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) at Zaheerabad in Medak district and development of Hyderabad-Nagpur and Warangal-Hyderabad Industrial Corridors.

Celebrating health



Raring to go: Hundreds of yoga enthusiasts participating in an event as part of the Dasara festivities on the premises of the Mysuru Palace in Karnataka on Friday. •M.A. SRIRAM

NIA files chargesheet against 7 from Kerala

STAFF REPORTER
KOCHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday filed a chargesheet against seven persons from Kerala in the Wandoor terror case before the NIA special court, Ernakulam. The accused were identified as Shaibu Nihar, 39, of Kozhikode; Muhammad Mansoor, 35, of Malappuram; Mansoor, 42, of Kozhikode; Shahnad, 31, of Kannur; Fajid Hamsa, 36, of Kozhikode; Safer Rahman, 39, of Ernakulam; and Mukhadis, 31, of Malappuram. The case was originally registered against eight persons at the Wandoor police station in Malappuram invoking Sections 38 and 39 of the UA(P) Act on November 6, 2017.

The case was that the accused had hatched a criminal conspiracy with Hamsa, aka Taliban Hamsa, a chargesheeted accused in the IS Valapattanam case, while being in Bahrain to join the proscribed terrorist outfit Islamic State. The NIA took over the case on June 1, 2018. Its investigation revealed that seven of the accused had either travelled or attempted to travel to IS-controlled territory in Syria to join the terrorist outfit. They also collected funds to facilitate their travel, the chargesheet read. The NIA had arrested the absconding first accused Shaibu Nihar following his deportation from Qatar. Interpol blue notices had been issued against the remaining absconding accused.

1.7 lakh auto, cab drivers in A.P. to get cash benefit

New scheme to provide ₹10,000 each per year for five years to meet insurance, upkeep costs

RAJULAPUDI SRINIVAS
ELURU

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Friday launched the 'YSR Vahana Mitra' scheme, aimed at benefiting 1,73,102 autorickshaw and taxi drivers across the State. Incidentally, he made the promise at the old bus stand in the town last year, and officials replayed the clippings of his interaction with the auto drivers before the programme began. Addressing a public meeting at the indoor stadium here, Mr. Reddy said the amount would come in handy for auto drivers to meet major commitments such as payment of insurance and road tax, and maintenance of their vehicles.



A promise kept: Auto drivers greeting Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy at the launch of the Vahana Mitra scheme in Eluru on Friday. •A.V.G. PRASAD

The beneficiaries will get ₹10,000 each per year for five years. Those who own vehicles, which is a precondition, but could not enrol

for the programme, can register up to October 31. The Chief Minister said he decided to launch the scheme – which could be the

first of its kind in the country – after understanding the travails of auto drivers during his 'padayatra.' "By god's grace and with the blessings of the people, I am implementing the programme. I want to extend it to all eligible drivers in the State," he said. Earlier, he visited the 'Navaratna' stalls arranged by various government departments. **Pat for Minister, officials** Much to the delight of the auto drivers, Mr. Reddy wore the khaki shirt offered by them during the entire programme. The auto drivers felicitated the Chief Minister. Mr. Reddy had a word of praise for Transport Minister Perni Nani, Principal Secre-

tary (Transport) Krishna Babu, Commissioner P.S.R. Anjaneyulu and other officers and staff for working out the modalities of the programme in just 11 days. **Thousands to gain** The Transport Minister said 79,000 members of the Backward Classes, 40,000 SCs, 6,000 STs, 17,500 minorities, 20,000 Kapus, 398 Brahmins and 9,956 economically backward people were among the beneficiaries. Deputy Chief Ministers Pili Subhash Chandra Bose and Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas, Ministers Cherukuvada Sriranganadha Raju and Taneti Vanitha, MPs, MLAs, MLCs and officials participated in the programme.

50 Maradu flats remain locked as deadline ends

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The residents of the Maradu apartment complexes that are set to be demolished gave an undertaking to the Ernakulam district administration on Friday that they had vacated their homes. The Supreme Court had ordered the demolition of the four complexes here in Kerala, citing violation of Coastal Regulation Zone norms. The residents have sought a few days' time to remove all items from the apartments. But owners of 50 apartments have kept them locked, and their details are being gathered. All apartments are now under the custody of the district administration, while the police are providing security. The deadline to evict the residents ended on Thursday night. The State had in an affidavit before the Supreme Court said that the residents would be shifted from their homes by Thursday night. The Maradu municipality said on Thursday that residents of 243 of the 343 apartments had moved out. Power and water supply, which were disconnected a week ago, were restored to complete the evacuation process. All evictees from the apartment complexes will be provided compensation as directed by the Supreme Court in a year's time. This was announced at the first meeting of the three-member committee led by Justice K. Balakrishnan here on Friday. The court had ordered a maximum compensation of ₹25 lakh to flat owners in the first phase. All flats will be completely evacuated by October 8, it is learnt.

IN BRIEF



Kamal Nath seeks flood relief of ₹9,000 crore
BHOPAL
Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath has appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for an immediate assistance of ₹9,000 crore as flood relief. During a 45-minute meeting with Mr. Modi in New Delhi, Mr. Nath apprised him of the situation and submitted a memorandum on the losses.

Punjab arms seizure case handed over to NIA

NEW DELHI
The Home Ministry has handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) the probe into the recovery of huge arms, ammunition and communication hardware in Punjab, suspected to have been delivered through drones from across the border.

CBI challenges Rajeev Kumar's bail petition

NEW DELHI
The CBI on Friday filed a special leave petition in the SC, challenging the Calcutta HC's order granting anticipatory bail to former Kolkata police chief Rajeev Kumar in the Saradha chit fund scam case. The HC said that his custodial interrogation was not required and that the CBI could question him, after a 48-hour prior notice.

AIIMS, JIPMER to come under NEET: Minister

NEW DELHI
Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said AIIMS and JIPMER would be included under the National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET) from 2020 with the government keen on implementing the National Medical Commission (NMC)-2019 at a fast pace.

HC green lights axing of 2,646 Aarey trees

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation had allowed their chopping to construct Metro car shed



Marked for cutting: Notice put up on a tree soon to be axed for the metro car shed project at Aaray. ■ VIJAY BATE

The Bombay High Court on Friday paved way for the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MMRCL) to construct a car shed for Mumbai Metro Line 3 by upholding the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) Tree Authority's nod to cut 2,646 trees at the Aarey Milk Colony despite wide spread protests.

A division bench of Chief Justice Pradeep Nandrajog and Justice Bharati Dangre dismissed four petitions filed by NGOs and environmental activists. The Bench termed all the petitioners as "Davids" taking on the industrial "Goliaths", apparently suggesting that they were fight-

ing an unequal battle. The Bench said, "The Greens fail in the instant petition because they have lost touch with the procedure to be followed as per law." Two of the petitions, filed by NGO Vanshakti, sought to

declare 1280 hectares in Aarey as 'reserved forest' under the Indian Forest Act and directions to the State to issue a formal notification to that effect under the Act and to protect the flood plain of the Mithi River at Aarey

where construction is prohibited.

When the Mithi river overflows the low-lying area in the Aarey Milk Colony acts as a flood plain and when the river flow is less, the water which accumulates in the depressions feeds the river.

The third plea, filed by local resident Zoru Bhatena, challenged a resolution passed by the BMC's Tree Authority on August 29 to cut 2,646 trees at Aarey Milk Colony to make way for the Metro car shed.

The bench rejected the contention stating that MMRCL had scaled down the project with respect to the number of trees to be cut and that in itself was proof of the decision being fair, trans-

parent and based on reason.

The fourth plea from Shiv Sena's corporator Yashwant Jadhav opposed the Tree Authority's decision, though he was a member of the panel. The Bench said, "The petition filed by Mr Jadhav is sheer voyeurism and it is sans any material particulars concerning the meeting of the Tree Authority." The bench imposed a cost of ₹50,000 on Mr Jadhav.

Dismissing the petitions, the Bench said, "Regrettfully, the State has not formulated any policy laying down the parameters to determine either the extent of land or treat coverage therein for qualifying the land as a forest."

SC gives tax relief for food at incorporated clubs

The court said such supply of goods lacks the essential aspect of a sale — a seller and a buyer

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

In a significant judgment, the Supreme Court has held that supply of food, drinks and beverages by an incorporated members' club to its permanent members is not liable for sales or service tax. However, in the case of sales tax, both incorporated and un-incorporated members' clubs are exempt from liability, the apex court held.

A Bench of Justices Rohinton F. Nariman, Surya Kant and V. Ramasubramanian reasoned that such supply of goods between a members' club and its permanent members lack the one essential aspect of a 'sale' — a seller and a buyer. Here the legal entity called the club and its members are one and the

same. "There is no sale by one person to another for consideration, as one cannot sell something to oneself," Justice Nariman, who wrote the 76-page judgment, pronounced on Thursday and published on October 4.

Doctrine of mutuality

The Bench referred to the Constitution Bench judgment in the Young Men's Indian Association case, for instance, and held that the doctrine of mutuality between the club and its members would dominate the relationship between an incorporated members' club and its permanent members.

It held that since there is no transfer of property from one (club) to another (members), there is no sale eligible



for tax. The club, though a distinct legal entity, is only an agent of its members. Supply of various preparations to members is no sale as "the element of transfer would be completely absent." The Bench was answering a reference on the question whether the doctrine of mutuality highlighted in the Young Men's Indian Association judgment of the Constitution Bench would survive the 46th Constitu-

tional Amendment, which introduced Article 366 (29-A) into the Constitution. The West Bengal government had appealed against the Calcutta Club.

The particular Article dealt with the taxation of sale of goods. Its clauses (e) and (f) said supply or service of 'goods' like food or drink by an "unincorporated association or body of persons" would be taxable. The question before the Justice Nariman Bench was whether the supply of food and beverages in incorporated members' clubs would be taxable.

Justice Nariman said such an interpretation would lead to an "absurd situation."

"A members' club may supply goods which are not food or drink — for example,

soap, cosmetics and other household items. These items would be 'goods', but not being food or drink, and therefore cannot be taxed under sub-clause (f). This leads to the absurd situation of the supply of food and drink being taxable in members' clubs, and the supply of other goods in such clubs being outside the tax net," Justice Nariman noted.

The Bench held that the same reasoning exempting the supply of edible goods between an incorporated members' club and its permanent members would apply for service tax also.

"The rendering of service by the petitioner-club to its members is not taxable service under the Finance Act, 1994," the Court held.

On the lunar surface



Caught on camera: A high spatial resolution image of the moon taken by the Orbiter High-Resolution Camera (OHRC) on board Chandrayaan-2 on Friday. ■ ANI

Ahead of Dussehra, plastic Ravana emerges as the new villain

'The intent is to personify the king in a plastic form as a demon, bad for the society and environment'

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Ahead of Dussehra, celebrants have found a new villain. The traditional practice has been to burn a massive effigy of Ravana but this year, companies — looking to capitalise on the buzz around curtailing the use of plastic — are making plastic effigies of the 'demon-king'. The traditional act of burning it in public has been substituted by a

token destruction that involves physical dismantling, recycling or — in some cases — a controlled incineration.

The Cement Manufacturers Association, for instance, is collaborating with the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to create 25-feet installations of Ravana(s) in five cities, including Delhi.

Each effigy, made of about 300 kilos of plastic waste,

will be mechanically destroyed on October 8, in a cement plant, in the presence of industry and government officials, a spokesperson for the association told *The Hindu*. "The remnants would then would be incinerated in a closed kiln under high temperature without leaving any residue," she clarified.

"The intent is to personify Ravana in a plastic form as a demon, bad for the society

and environment. This initiative also highlights the role that the cement industry can play in helping overcome this menace in its plants in an environmentally friendly manner," according to a statement released by the association.

Similarly, Mother Dairy commissioned a 25-ft. effigy of Ravana using waste plastic collected from households in the Delhi-National Capital

Region (NCR) region, and destroyed it on October 2, which was Gandhi Jayanti.

"The Ravana effigy was not burned but was dismantled and sent for recycling by the Indian Pollution Control Association, an organisation certified by Central Pollution Control Board. The collection drive was carried out in areas across Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, Faridabad and Ghaziabad, along with con-

sumers depositing plastic waste at select milk booths in these regions. The drive was supported by leading NGOs for door-to-door plastic collection," the organisation said in a statement.

The buzz for a plastic ban grew after Prime Minister Modi on August 15 said, "By October 2, on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, I urge the citizens to give up single-use plastic."

Centre to release ₹1200 cr. for Karnataka floods

Bihar to get ₹400 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Home Ministry on Friday approved the release of an additional financial assistance of ₹1200 crore to Karnataka and ₹400 crore to Bihar for the damage caused by rain and floods in the two States.

"Keeping in view the severity of flood situation and the fund positions in the State Disaster Relief Fund account of Bihar and Karnataka, the Home Minister has

approved advance release of ₹400 crore to Bihar and ₹1,200 crore to Karnataka from the National Disaster Relief on account basis," a Home Ministry statement said.

The approval came after Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the ongoing rescue and relief work of all flood-affected States.

Karnataka and Bihar had apprised the Centre of the paucity of funds in the SDRF account, resulting in delay in

providing relief assistance to the affected people and requested for release of advance additional financial assistance from the NDRF.

Bihar had also requested for advance release of the second instalment of the SDRF for the year 2019-20.

Mr. Shah further approved the advance release of the second instalment of centre's share of the SDRF amounting to ₹213.75 crore to Bihar for the year 2019-20.

The statement said the Centre supplements the efforts of the State governments by providing assistance for immediate relief through the SDRF and the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) as per established procedure.

The SDRF has been constituted for each State. Centre contributes 75% funds for general category States and 90% for North-Eastern and hilly states of the SDRF allocation each year.

Hate crimes rose in the first half of 2019

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Amnesty India's hate crime tracker has recorded 181 incidents of alleged hate crimes in the first half of 2019, the steepest rise in such incidents since 2015. The count is almost double that of the same period last year, when 100 such cases were recorded.

Over two-thirds of the victims were targeted because they were Dalits, while 40 of them suffered because of their Muslim identity. In 37 reported incidents, the victims were killed. In 30 cases, victims were raped or sexually assaulted. Between January and June 2019, 72 mob attacks were reported. Of the 37 such attacks against Muslims, the victims were lynched in 5 cases. Dalit victims were lynched in 8 of the 28 mob attacks. There were 7 honour killings and 12 cases of violence against Adivasis.

Amnesty's Halt the Hate website was launched in September 2015 in the wake of the murder of Mohammed Akhlaq.

PANCHAYAT RAJ & DRINKING WATER DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, Nabarangpur
Tel:(06858)222643, E-Mail: eerwss_ngp@rediffmail.com / eerwssngp@gmail.com
413-Q:
No: RWSS_NGP_ONLINE '02/ 2019-20 DATED: - 30/09/2019

The Executive Engineer RWS&S Division Nabarangpur on behalf of Govt. Of Odisha invites item rate/percentage bid through e-procurement in double cover system according to norm of e-procurement system in on-line mode.

1. Name of the Work : Construction of different capacity Over Head Tank including its ancillary work in commissioned pipe water supply scheme and different Block in the Nabarangpur District.

2. No. of Works : 12 Nos (Detailed Tender Call Notice available in the website)

3. Estimated Cost : Varies from approximately Rs.204.75 Lakhs to Rs.70.60 Lakhs

4. Tender Paper Cost : Rs.10,000.00

5. Class of Contractor : Estimated cost up to ₹ 20.00 lakhs Estimated cost more than ₹ 20.00 lakhs & within ₹ 40.00 lakhs Estimated cost more than ₹ 40.00 lakhs & within ₹ 06.00 Crore

6. Period of Completion : 180 Days to 270 Days

7. Critical dates : Bid Identification No. Availability of Tender online for Bidding From To Last Date of seeking tender Clarification Last date of receipt of confirmation letter & other documents Date of opening of Bid

Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Nabarangpur	RWSS_NGP_ONLINE_02 of 2019-20	18.10.2019 at 11.00 AM	24.10.2019 at 05.00 PM	23.10.2019 up to 11.00 AM	25.10.2019 up to 03.30 P.M.	26.10.2019 at 11.00 AM
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* Further details can be seen in the bidding documents, which is available in the e-procurement portal <https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in>.
* Subsequent corrigendum if required shall be appeared in the web site.
* Authority reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

25028/11/0002/1920 **Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Nabarangpur**

Govt. of Karnataka
Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka)
Office of the Director cum Dean, Fort, K.R. Road, Bangalore-560002
Tel: 080-26700810, Telefax: 080-26704342
e-mail: director_bmcric@yahoo.co.in

No. BMCRI/Sup(2)/05/2019-20 Date: 03-10-2019

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

e-Tenders are invited through e-procurement portal for the purchase of **Mammography and 800 MA X-ray with IITV** required to Radio Diagnosis Dept. BMCRI.

Tender details, E.M.D details and other related details can be viewed, downloaded and applied only through the e-procurement mode only. Website: <https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in> Interested tenderers have to register in the e-procurement portal, details of which can be viewed in the said website.

(1) Commencement date for uploading of tenders: **05.10.2019.**
(2) Pre-bid Meeting Date: **05.11.2019 at 11.30 A.M.**
(3) Last date for uploading the tenders: **04.12.2019 before 4.30 P.M.**
(4) Date of opening of tender technical bid: **06.12.2019 at 11.30 A.M.**

For further details contact Director cum Dean, Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, Bangalore.

Sd/- Director cum Dean
BMCRI, Bengaluru

DIPR/DO/1386/2019-20

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
TENDER NOTIFICATION No.DCE-CN-CLT-OT-07-2019 Dated:01.10.2019

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Railway Station, Southern Railway, Kozhikode - 673 001 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal www.ireps.gov.in. The tenders/contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal www.ireps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted. The cost of the tender form and the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) should be made through online payment gateway available in the website by the way of multiple banks' net-banking debit card and credit card.

Name of the Work

Shoranur - Mangalore Section - (1) Proposed reconstruction of Br. No. 1087 (exg. 3x18.26m Steel Girder) at Km.736/100-200 as 3x18.0m PSC-I Girder with deck slab between Tellicherry and Etakot stations. (2) Proposed reconstruction of Br. No. 1144 (exg. 2x12.20m + 3x18.30m Steel Girder) at km. 783/700-800 as 2x12.20 PSC Slab + 3x18.30m PSH Girder with deck slab between Ezhimala and Payannur stations - Proposed soil stabilization of weak formation at approaches of bridges.

Approximate cash value ₹	Earnest Money Deposit ₹	Cost of tender Form ₹	Period of Completion in month(s)	Closing/Opening Date @ 11.00 hrs./ 11.30 hrs.
3,23,89,160/-	3,12,000/-	10,000/-	SIX	31.10.2019

GST: It may please be noted that the supplier for goods and / or Service for the tender/agreement, would be subject to GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time.

For other details, please refer to website portal www.ireps.gov.in or contact office of the Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Opposite to Railway Station, Southern Railway, Kozhikode - 673 001.

Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Kozhikode

WEATHER WATCH
RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over Assam & Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura, Rayalaseema and Kerala.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN		
Agartala.....	13.1....	34.4....	25.4	Kozhikode.....	.....	34.4....	26.4	
Ahmedabad.....	.....	33.6....	25.1	Kurnool.....	.....	34.5....	24.3
Aizawl.....	.....	27.1....	19.2	Lucknow.....	.....	33.7....	24.3
Allahabad.....	21.6....	31.2....	23.6	Madurai.....	.....	33.9....	25.4	
Bengaluru.....	2.2....	28.3....	19.6	Mangaluru.....	29.6....	32.6....	23.0		
Bhopal.....	.....	31.1....	22.4	Mumbai.....	.....	32.3....	25.8
Bhubaneswar.....	1.2....	33.4....	24.8	Mysuru.....	.....	31.6....	19.0	
Chandigarh.....	.....	28.6....	19.8	New Delhi.....	47.3....	31.4....	19.8	
Chennai.....	.....	33.8....	27.0	Patna.....	.....	32.0....	25.1
Coimbatore.....	.....	34.6....	23.7	Port Blair.....	.....	32.2....	24.4
Dehradun.....	5.6....	31.2....	19.0	Puducherry.....	.....	33.0....	24.2	
Gangtok.....	3.5....	19.5....	14.6	Pune.....	31.4....	21.9	
Goa.....	.....	32.6....	25.2	Raipur.....	.....	33.2....	24.7
Guwahati.....	33.4....	23.6	Ranchi.....	1.6....	31.0....	21.6	
Hubballi.....	28.0....	21.0	Shillong.....	2.4....	23.6....	13.8	
Hyderabad.....	6.6....	31.9....	22.4	Shimla.....	.....	18.6....	12.5	
Imphal.....	29.5....	18.5	Srinagar.....	2.7....	15.3....	10.6	
Jaipur.....	23.0	Thiruvananthapuram.....	32.4....	24.9	
Kochi.....	31.2....	25.2	Tiruchi.....	35.4....	26.0	
Kohima.....	9.2....	23.2....	15.4	Vijayawada.....	34.6....	24.0
Kolkata.....	33.7....	26.6	Visakhapatnam.....	32.2....	26.8	

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad.....	103	122	77	98	119	■	
Bengaluru.....	7	61	63	111	.....	■	In observation made at 6.00 p.m., Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 165, indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Haldia, West Bengal recorded a healthy AQI score of 30
Chennai.....	5	8	26	92	.....	■
Delhi.....	4	87	64	98	135	■	
Hyderabad.....	38	43	18	83	99	■	
Kolkata.....	18	35	14	81	87	■	
Lucknow.....	5	11	80	60	.....	■
Mumbai.....	5	19	105	33	.....	■
Pune.....	86	8	67	53	53	■	
Visakhapatnam.....	.....	.....	11	.....	.....	■

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

NIFTEM
National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management
Deemed to be University (De-novo Category) under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956
An Autonomous Institution under Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India Plot No. 97, Sector 56, HSIDC Industrial Estate, Kundli-131028, District- Sonapat, Haryana

EXTENSION OF LAST DATE
RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION FOR TEACHING POSTS
Reference to the advertisement published in Times of India (All Edition), The Hindu (All Edition), Shillong Times (North East Edition), Dainik Jagran (All Edition) and Employment News (Delhi) in August, 2019 wherein applications were invited for the Teaching posts. **The last date for receipt of online application has been extended till 21-10-2019.**
Other terms and conditions will remain same. Details may be seen at www.niftem.ac.in Registrar, NIFTEM

IISER
भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान बरहमपुर
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Berhampur
Established by the Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India

IISERBPR/CAA/PhD/2019/2 October 05, 2019

Notice for PhD Admissions
Applications are invited from highly motivated and research-oriented candidates for admission to PhD programme for the semester commencing from January 2020.
Disciplines: Biological Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Mathematical Sciences and Physical Sciences.
Details of qualification, eligibility, application form and application procedure are available on <https://www.iiserbpr.ac.in/>
Last Date for Receipt of Application: November 05, 2019
Coordinator, Academic Affairs

सीएसआईआर-कोशिकीय एवं आणविक जीवविज्ञान केंद्र
CSIR - CENTRE FOR CELLULAR AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
(वैज्ञानिक तथा औद्योगिक अनुसंधान परिषद)
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
हस्सीगुडा, हैदराबाद-500007, तेलंगाना / Habsiguda, Hyderabad - 500007, Telangana.

Advt. No. 09/2019 दिनांक / Dated : 03-10-2019
CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad invites online application for the following post.

Designation	No. of Posts & Reservation status	Pay Matrix	Total Emoluments*	Upper Age Limit
Scientist	01 (UR)	Level-11	1,15,279/-	32 years**

* Total Emoluments including Non-Practicing Allowance (NPA), DA, TA and HRA.
** Relaxation may be granted as per rules.

Date of Commencement of online application : 05-10-2019
Last Date for submission of online application : 28-10-2019
Last Date for Receipt of the hard copy : 11-11-2019

For detailed qualifications, experience, relaxation and other requirements of the post, please visit CSIR-CMBB website: www.ccm.b.res.in to see full advertisement.
Corrigendum/Addendum, if any, will be published only in the website.
Sd/- (Administrative Officer)



Moderate expectations

There are limits to what RBI can do with rates; the government needs to prod investment

After the unconventional 35 basis points cut in interest rates in August, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) returned to a normal 25 basis points cut on Friday. While a rate cut was a foregone conclusion, the speculation was over whether it would be 25 or 40 basis points, going by the August experience. With this, the central bank has pruned rates by 135 basis points in just seven months since the rate cut cycle started in February. Of this, until August, banks had passed on 29 basis points to borrowers. But with the shift to an external benchmark by major banks recently – mostly linked to the repo rate – the transmission could be quicker from here onwards. The RBI has also sharply marked down the GDP growth projections for the current fiscal to 6.1% from the 6.9% that it had projected in the August policy. This was inevitable after the shocking 5% growth reported in the first quarter but it could be argued though that even the revised estimate is a trifle optimistic. If the projection of 6.1% for 2019-20 is to be met, the economy has to grow by about 7% in the second half which does not look very likely. If the high frequency data of the last couple of months are any indication, the second quarter may well end up mirroring the first in terms of GDP growth. The basis for RBI's optimism, therefore, appears unclear at this moment.

The central bank has done the heavy lifting in the last few months and monetary policy may well be nearing its limits in so far as its ability to influence growth prospects is concerned. Inflation is well within the target giving space to the RBI to focus on growth. Crude oil prices are back in the comfort zone, retreating from the spike in mid-September, and food prices are projected to remain soft on the back of a good monsoon. The monetary policy statement is unambiguous that the RBI will continue with its accommodative stance "as long as it is necessary to revive growth". While this statement is credible, the problem is that the central bank can only facilitate lower rates and push banks to lend. It cannot force borrowers to borrow and this is evident from the soft trends in credit offtake in the last few months. As per latest available data, bank credit is growing at just 10.3%. The onus, therefore, is on fiscal policy which alone can prod borrowing and investment. To be fair, the government has been engaging the levers, and the corporate tax cut last month is a major move to get private investment going. However, the ₹1.45 lakh crore give-away has set off fears in the market of a fiscal slippage and higher borrowings by the government. These concerns also explain the unenthusiastic response of the stock and bond markets to Friday's rate cut. The ongoing festival season consumption holds the key to revival of the economy this fiscal.

Web of deception

The government must monitor the NEET admission process to guard against fraud

What the embittered relationship between Tamil Nadu and the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) required was a salve, but instead things just got more complicated and murkier. The recent expose of what has come to be known as the NEET examination scam has placed further stress on the State's experience with the exam in more ways than one. A couple of mails sent to the administrators of the Theni Government Medical College in south Tamil Nadu blew the lid off a scam with far-reaching consequences. A student of the college had gained his seat through subterfuge – by having someone impersonate him at the NEET. This turned out to be only the tip of the iceberg, and as investigators began unravelling the spool, more skeletons tumbled out. A number of students and their parents were investigated for possible impersonation fraud in the NEET, for operating with the help of middlemen to hire a medical student to write the test for them, for a hefty consideration. This, no doubt, required spinning a careful web of deception, right from submitting photos of the impersonator in the NEET application forms, to actually appearing for the examinations and single-window counselling for admissions, to submitting the application with the original student's photo at the allotted college. Further probe cast a shadow on the admission of more students, including in private medical colleges. With the CB-CID tasked with investigating the case, bits and pieces of the puzzle are falling in place, revealing a multi-State operation. While the larger picture, with all its many nuances, is not yet clear, it is evident that fraud has been committed, and serious lapses in procedures and processes were exploited by students eager to score a medical seat by hook or by crook. They might have got away with it, but for an anonymous tip-off.

Given that NEET was intended to standardise testing for admission into medical colleges and ensure a certain minimum quality, such lapses erode the very core of its raison d'être. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the National Testing Agency, which conducts the examination, must exhibit zero tolerance to such attempts to frustrate the integrity of the test. Both these agencies must immediately set their energies to identifying lacunae in the existing system and ensure that a foolproof testing methodology is in place. Using biometrics to identify students taking NEET has been suggested, and its value in adding a further layer of checks and balances is indisputable. Parents and students too would do well to temper their vaulting ambition for an MBBS seat with a measure of rationality. There are only a limited number of MBBS seats available, and while that number is slowly growing, it will never equal the demand.



M.K. NARAYANAN

The second informal summit between leaders of India and China is scheduled to take place in the second week of October in the coastal town of Mamallapuram, south of Chennai. Among the decisions taken at the Wuhan Summit held in April last year was to hold more such summits, aimed at ensuring "higher levels of strategic communications." The Mamallapuram meet adheres to the Wuhan Summit in letter but one wonders whether in the past 18 months the two leaders did succeed in enhancing strategic communications.

When China agreed to an informal summit in 2018, there was considerable scepticism as to what would be on offer from the Chinese side while agreeing to such a move. China was riding the crest of a wave of achievements, and did not think it needed to make concessions to anyone, least of all India. Since then, however, China has met with certain setbacks – geo-politically and economically – while India, though beset by a host of economic woes, seems better positioned today than in the spring of 2018. It, however, remains to be seen whether it will ensure that this summit is more productive.

Symbolic choice of venue

The choice of Mamallapuram was, perhaps, not as arbitrary as it might seem. If Wuhan was picked by President Xi Jinping as the venue last year to demonstrate China's economic resilience and might, Mamallapuram is symbolic of India's 'soft power'. Mamallapuram, an important town of the erstwhile Pallava dynasty that ruled this part of south India from

275 CE to 897 CE, is renowned for its architecture, widely admired across the world.

Mamallapuram and the Pallava dynasty are also historically relevant, for the earliest recorded security pact between China and India (in the early 8th century) involved a Pallava king (Rajasimhan, or Narasimha Varma II), from whom the Chinese sought help to counter Tibet, which had by then emerged as a strong power posing a threat to China. The Chinese side is unlikely to miss this subtle hint, concerning the changing fortunes of nations and the importance of sustaining relationships.

Informal summits have their use as trust-building exercises. It has to be acknowledged, however, that since the Wuhan Summit, little has changed as far as India-China relations are concerned. Doklam and the disputed border between the two countries remains an issue of concern. Hopes raised at the Wuhan Summit that the two countries would jointly work together on an economic project in Afghanistan have proven to be evanescent. Instead, even as the political situation in Afghanistan deteriorates, China, along with countries like Pakistan, remains more intent than ever on ensuring that India has no role to play there.

Contradictory outlook

Meanwhile, China and India continue to compete and have a contradictory outlook on many strategic and civilisational issues. These include the nature of Asian security, regional stability and the role of the U.S. in the region. The China-Pakistan axis has, if anything, been further cemented – the UN designating Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist a mere blip in the wider scheme of China-Pakistan relations.

After the Wuhan Summit, many things have changed, altering the circumstances surrounding India-



AFP

China relations. For instance, relations between China and the U.S. have sharply deteriorated. Apart from the U.S., a vast majority of nations in the West have cooled off towards China. While in 2018, the China-Russia axis appeared to be carving out an exclusive zone of influence in East Asia, by mid-2019, new alignments, including a further strengthening of India-Russia ties, as also a new triangular relationship of Russia, India and Japan, appear to be altering equations in the East Asian region. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has also come under increasing attack, even from countries which previously viewed China as a munificent nation.

China's domestic scene is again marked by heightened anxiety today. The economy is far more fragile than in early 2018, as exemplified by the jitters emanating from China's equity and currency markets, and the decline in growth rates. Internal security concerns such as unrest in Tibet, inroads made by radical extremist groups in Xinjiang and the latest turn of events in Hong Kong are also reinforcing fears about the leadership's ability to control the situation. The relentless attack by the U.S. and President Trump on China's economic practices has only aggravated this mood of pessimism.

China's concerns

India, on the other hand, has reasons to be more optimistic than a year ago. India's relations with the U.S. have attained a new high. Relations with Russia have acquired a

fresh dimension, incorporating economics alongside a longstanding military relationship. India's line of credit to develop Russia's Far East has fundamentally changed the nature of India-Russia relations. India's relations with Japan have greatly strengthened. The Quadrilateral (the U.S., India, Japan and Australia) has gained a new lease of life.

All this is certain to make China pause and rethink issues. Additionally, certain recent actions by India are likely to arouse China's suspicions about India's intentions, which could impact the summit outcome. While India's efforts to 'dumb down' the Dalai Lama will have appeased China to an extent, other events in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, where it takes a keen interest, will be seen as a provocation at this juncture. For example, the recent announcement by India of an "all arms integrated" exercise 'codenamed Changthang Prahar (assault)' in a "super high altitude" area near Chushul in eastern Ladakh, featuring tanks, artillery guns, drones, helicopters and troops, as well as para-drops, is almost certain to be read suspiciously by China. Simultaneously, the reopening of the Advance Landing Ground at Vijaynagar in Arunachal Pradesh for the use of military aircraft and a proposed major combat exercise, also in Arunachal Pradesh, in which the new Integrated Battle Groups will be seen in operation will add to, and aggravate, China's concerns.

Anyone familiar with the way the Chinese mind works will recognise that the concatenation of circumstances spelt out here is almost certain to make China even more intransigent as far as its negotiating stance is concerned. India, hence, needs to proceed with utmost caution, lest China reacts in a manner that would undermine the 'Wuhan spirit'. India must ensure that it does not provoke China to the point where it

would be inclined to indulge in 'adventurism'.

Treading with caution

As part of the preparations for the summit, Mr. Modi's advisers would be well advised to try and arrive at a multi-faceted understanding of China and the Sino-phone world in 2019. Achieving a more holistic understanding of China's sense of itself is even more important today than in 2018.

Blowing his 'conch' well ahead of the 70th anniversary of the republic, President Xi has already begun talking of the "great struggle" needed to build a new China. He is obliquely seeking a reversion to the Maoist period of "struggle to achieve victory." For India-based China experts, it may be worthwhile to decipher how this translates in terms of international relations. In the meantime, it would be best to adhere to the dictum, the medium is the message.

India can try and seek answers on how to deal with today's China, from the "wisdom of the orient." Reading up on treatises such as Sun Tzu's 'Art of War' would help. "Subduing the enemy without fighting" has been a recurrent theme in Chinese thinking, and while informal summits have their uses, it is imperative not to overlook this aspect. China's efforts are more than likely to be directed towards 'disruption', primarily concentrating on disrupting the strategic alliances that India has forged, or strengthened, recently.

If India does not proceed with care and caution, the Mamallapuram summit could well prove to be a step back from Wuhan. With preparations and proper handling, the forthcoming meet could, on the other hand, provide India's leaders with a realistic estimate as to where India-China relations are headed.

M.K. Narayanan is former National Security Adviser and former Governor of West Bengal

Rethinking college recruitment

Underlying problems need to be addressed before the tenure track system is introduced in the IITs



R. PRASAD

In a marked departure in the way assistant professors, who are on the lowest rung of the academic ladder, are hired and confirmed at all the 23 Indian Institutes of Technology, the IIT Council recently introduced the tenure track system.

New hiring process

Under this system, an assistant professor may be hired without the mandatory post-PhD experience requirement and her performance reviewed internally after three years. Based on an evaluation by an external committee at the end of 5.5 years, he or she may either be granted tenure (made permanent) and promoted to the next higher level of associate professor or asked to leave. In certain cases, based on the recommendation of the external committee, an extension of two years may be granted to the candidate before being assessed again.

At present, a fresh faculty member is placed on probation for a year before confirmation without being subjected to any kind of a

critical evaluation. According to the Council, this leads to a situation wherein "a large number of faculty, despite having very good credentials, do not put in enough effort on research and teaching". Over the years, the number of faculty whose performance is below par has risen to such an extent that "more than half" underperform. The tenure track system is being seen as a silver bullet to prevent further deterioration and to remove non-performers. "The tenure track combines academic freedom with responsibility and accountability," Higher Education Secretary R. Subrahmanyam told the media.

No guarantees

If we look at the tenure track system in other countries, it is clear that the process doesn't guarantee excellence or improve accountability at the institutional level. While the principal purpose of tenure in the U.S. is to provide permanency and safeguard academic freedom, using the same system to promote research and teaching excellence reflects a lack of application of mind. Flogging a small subset of young faculty to improve the metrics using the threat of tenure track while leaving the large majority of senior faculty unmonitored will do little to achieve the prime objective.

Keeping the young faculty on a



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK PHOTO

tight leash can prove to be counterproductive. To begin with, the power asymmetry that already exists between new recruits and the older faculty will worsen. But tenure's biggest disservice may be in the field of research. With the sword of Damocles hanging over their heads, young faculty may end up being more risk-averse and refrain from working in uncharted, cutting-edge research areas. The temptation to settle for safer, short-term, sure-shot solvable research problems or just extending their PhD or post-doc research is likely to become overpowering.

If the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) feels compelled to ape the West, it should be willing to go the whole hog and match the U.S. and other countries that have this system in terms of research facilities. Unlike in most U.S. universities that have a tenure track system, it is extremely difficult for new appointees to hit the ground running as even basic infrastructure to carry out research is not in place at many of

the newer IITs. There have been innumerable cases in the older IITs where even securing lab space can take as long as a year or more.

While those working in theoretical areas might find it relatively easier to publish papers, experimentalists will be at a greater disadvantage as setting up labs will take longer. While even established IITs face difficulty finding good computer science faculty, finding computer science students willing to pursue the PhD programme will be even more challenging among the new recruits.

Funding issues

While the older IITs provide seed funding of about ₹20 lakh, the new IITs provide just a couple of lakhs of rupees. Researchers will necessarily have to turn to funding agencies for grants. With a significant reduction in the number of research proposals getting funded, new faculty will be forced to compete with well-established researchers for a piece of the pie. The delay in disbursement of funds by agencies is another problem.

The biggest area of concern is the upper age limit of 35 years for an assistant professor's post, which is not the case in the U.S. Since assistant professors are in the early 30s when they secure a position, anyone who fails to secure tenure at the end of 5.5 years is almost out of the reckoning at

any other academic institution.

With the MHRD planning to extend this system to Central universities and the draft National Education Policy recommending its introduction in all institutions by 2030, chances of securing a position at an alternative institution will be almost nil. Unlike in the U.S., industry jobs are not in plenty in India for those who fail to get tenured. The 5.5-year period to secure tenure is particularly disadvantageous to women researchers.

Will the introduction of the tenure track system at IITs make the task of securing fresh talent even more difficult? Professor V. Ramgopal Rao, Director of IIT Delhi, had said sometime ago that the institute had not been able to find "suitable candidates" to fill 300 faculty positions that have been lying vacant for the last 10 years. The introduction of the tenure track system without addressing the underlying problems researchers face is likely to make it even more challenging to find good talent. It is also unclear if the new IITs, which are just being built, will find themselves at a disadvantage in attracting talent. At this stage, one can only hope that the IIT Council has deliberated on these critical issues and not acted in haste or under duress.

prasad.ravindranath@thehindu.co.in

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

The NRC demand

Even as the fate of the 1.9 million left out of the final list of the National Register of Citizens in Assam hangs in the balance, a demand by Ministers for a similar exercise in some other States lacks wisdom ("Karnataka considering NRC: Minister", October 4). While security concerns merit segregation of anti-social elements, this cannot be an excuse to carry out a witch-hunt on a communal basis. It is important to first see how the Assam NRC pans out before implementing the exercise in other States.

YOGESH AGGARWAL,
Jalandhar

Friendly ties

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has struck a positive note by stressing that there are no problems in bilateral ties ("Hasina to focus on economic agenda", October 4). In the light of the ever-growing presence of China in the neighbourhood under its 'String of Pearls' policy, and with many countries joining the Belt and Road Initiative, India must put in extra effort in improving its bilateral relations with all its neighbours. Efforts should be made to finalise the Teesta water-sharing agreement with the cooperation of West Bengal. The development projects

in Bangladesh that are being financed by India should be expedited. Bangladesh should be assured that it has a reliable friendly neighbour in India.

KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULI,
Hyderabad

Problem of recusals

The judges who have recused themselves from the Gautam Navlakha case must give reasons for their decision ("Five SC judges recuse from Navlakha case", October 4). Judges must be true to the oath they take, which means that they should discharge their duties to the best of their abilities. Avoiding hearing sensitive cases

cannot be taken lightly, especially at the Supreme Court level. That these judges have not given any reason seems to hint that they are afraid of a backlash.

V. LAKSHMANAN,
Tirupur

Banners for Xi

It is most unfortunate that only a few weeks after the death of Subasri due to the banner culture, the Madras High Court has allowed the government to put up welcome banners in honour of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping ("Banners for summit must follow rules", October 5).

The Modi government has been doing away with many time-tested conventions in the last five years. Mr. Modi himself has said that the VIP culture should be shunned. Surely the bilateral talks won't fail if this convention is given up? If our courts don't protect our right to safety and security, people will slowly lose faith in the judiciary.

N. NAGARAJAN,
Secunderabad

Right to ask questions

It is true that there is mob violence and intolerance in this country. So, what is wrong in the letter written by eminent persons like Ramachandra Guha, Mani

Ratnam, Aparna Sen and Adoor Gopalakrishnan to the Prime Minister? ("Adoor questions sedition charge against him for writing open letter to PM Modi", October 4).

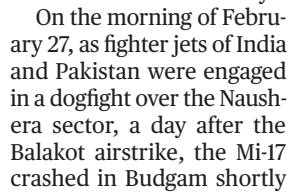
They have every right to, given that India is a democracy. All of us have a right to express concern and ask our elected representatives questions if the nation is seen as taking a wrong turn. The response of the government should be to address their concerns, not press charges of sedition.

UNNIKRIISHNAN MANGALASSERI,
Malappuram

MORE LETTERS ONLINE:
www.hindu.co.in/opinion/letters/

RBI's 25 bps cut leaves market disappointed

Shooting down of Mi-17 a big mistake: IAF chief



"I have been hearing about acquisition of 36 more Rafale jets. But nothing has been moved. There is no separate plans to have any additional quantity of Rafale jets," he stated.

49 booked for sedition
for letter against lynching

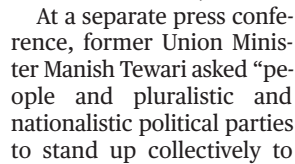
On the allegation that the letter tarnished the country's image, Mr. Gopalakrishnan asked if the lynchings, which were reported around the world, did not bring a bad name to the

(With PTI inputs)

Anyone who criticises Prime Minister Narendra Modi is put in jail, says former Congress president

"Anybody who says anyth-

“On one side, there is the idea that the country should be ruled by one man, one ideology and everybody else should shut up. On the other side, there is the Congress party and the Opposition who are saying no (to this).”



The Centre could give a tax benefit of ₹1,25,000 crore to 15 people, but not to the poor, he alleged.

Justices Ramana, Reddy did not opt out of Navlakha case

Only Justice B.R. Gavai did, say sources in SC Registry

said. "Mr. Navlakha's case was to be heard urgently. The plea was listed on that day before a Special Bench specifically constituted for hearing the Kashmir matters," a highly-placed source said. It had been reported

Though the expression of reluctance to hear the case seems to have come from Justice Gavai, the court's order, published later on that day, had shown that all the three judges had recused.

Interim protection to Navlakha extended

Produce material, SC tells Maharashtra

“Certain material which was produced before the High Court, in a sealed cov

against violence," but has an "ideological belief" being a member of the organisation People's Union for Democratic Rights (PUDR).



Mr. Sibal and senior advocate Abhishek M. Singhvi, also representing Mr. Chidambaram, said the Enforcement Directorate has not yet arrested Mr. Chidambaram in the money laundering case.

The apex court asked the Centre, represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, to respond to the plea.

President commutes 20 death sentences in nine years

Separately, MHA decided to commute the sentence of Rajoana, convicted in the then Punjab CM Beant Singh's killing

mute the death sentence of Balwant Singh Rajoana, convicted over the assassination of then Punjab chief minister Beant Singh, as a "humanitarian gesture" ahead of the 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Sikh founder Guru Nanak. It also decided to release eight other prisoners convicted for life for their involvement in Sikh militancy as a 'token of goodwill'.

"Rajooana never engaged a lawyer when the case was being heard in the court," said Manjinder Singh Sirsa, an SAD leader who had recently met Home Minister Amit Shah regarding Rajooana's case – the only Sikh prisoner on death row in a militancy related case. "To highlight the atrocities against the Sikhs, he refused

The ministry's decision to release the eight Sikh prisoners convicted under the repealed Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA) is seen as a one-off gesture as it is not in con-

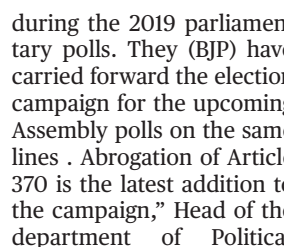
A senior government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "This was in response to the long pending demands on release of Sikh prisoners raised by various sections of the Sikh community."

The CIC's order said: "It acknowledges the power of the Executive to grant remission to convicted persons after due consideration by the appropriate Government."

BJP banks on national security again

PM Modi, Home Minister Shah's rallies in Haryana focus on Balakot, Article 370

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in their recent rallies in Haryana, set the tone as they drew special attention to the issue of abrogating provisions of Article 370, claiming that the BJP-led government had accomplished what the successive governments had failed to do in 70 years. “The surgical strikes of 2016 and Balakot air strikes had given BJP political dividends in Haryana



“BJP has already been successful in making inroads into the ‘non-Jat’ vote bank during the past five years of its rule in the State. And now with the evoking sentiments

Riding high on confidence after its recent win in the Lok Sabha polls, the BJP has set a target of winning at least 75 seats under its "Mission 75" campaign in the 90-member State Assembly. In 2014 assembly polls, the BJP had won 47 seats with 33.20% of vote share.

On Friday, Mr. Nirupam, the former head of the Mumbai Congress, alleged that "the party chief is surrounded by a coterie of sycophants" to influence her decisions. "There is conspiracy against Rahul Gandhi...people working closely with Sonia Gandhi."

giving ticket for the Assembly polls. "It seems Congress Party doesn't want my services anymore. I had recommended just one name in Mumbai for Assembly election. Heard that even that has been rejected. As I had told the leadership earlier, in that case I will not participate in poll campaign. It's my final decision," he tweeted on Thursday. The Congress, however, asked Mr. Nirmala to exercise restraint and not float conspiracy theories. "I think it would be appropriate for him to not come out with conspiracy theories. It serves nobody's purpose...Being upset doesn't give you the latitude to let our imagination run

Indicating that Mr. Tanwar was upset at being replaced by Kumari Selja as the Haryana Congress president, Mr. Tewari said, "For a long time, several people are given opportunities by the

"These problems have arisen because Rahul Gandhi chose to step down from the top post. People close to and groomed by him may feel marginalised," said Sri Prakash Singh, professor of Political Science in Delhi University.



Aditi Singh

Cong. issues show cause notice to MLA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT LUCKNOW

The Congress on Friday issued a show cause notice to its MLA from Rae Bareilly Aditi Singh after she defied the party whip and attended a special 36-hour session of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly convened by the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government despite a call for boycott from the Opposition parties.

Coming weeks after she spoke out in support of the Central government decision to scrap the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370, her seemingly rebellious stance triggered speculation over her future and proximity to the BJP.

Ms. Singh is an MLA from the Rae Bareilly Sadar seat, one of the five Assembly segments in the Parliamentary constituency of UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi.

Leader of the Congress Party in the House Ajay Kumar Lallu said Ms. Singh's act amounted to "indiscipline against the party."

Ms. Singh has two days to respond to the notice.

On Wednesday, Ms. Singh was not only conspicuous by her absence from the padhyatra led by Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, she also participated in the Assembly debate.

In a first, U.S. lawmakers take a step against India on Kashmir

Senate panel makes appeal to end 'humanitarian crisis' in the State

SUHASINI HAIDAR NEW DELHI

In what could become the first step towards legislative action by American lawmakers against India on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations has added an appeal to end what it calls a "humanitarian crisis" in Kashmir in its report ahead of the annual Foreign Appropriations Act for 2020.

The amendment was proposed by Senator Chris Van Hollen, who visited Delhi this week as a part of a congressional delegation that discussed the Kashmir situation as well as India-US bilateral relations, trade ties and defence purchases with key officials.

'Restore communication' According to the report, which was submitted to the Senate by Lindsey Graham, senior Senator and key Republican leader known for his close ties to President Donald Trump, the committee on Appropriations "notes with concern the current humanitarian crisis in Kashmir and calls on the Government of India to: fully restore tele-



Senator Chris Van Hollen visited Delhi this week as a part of a delegation that discussed the Kashmir situation. • GETTY IMAGES

communications and Internet services; lift its lockdown and curfew; and release individuals detained pursuant to the Government's revocation of Article 370 of the Indian constitution."

What makes the report as well as the tough language on Kashmir more startling is that the document was submitted on September 26, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi was still in the US, and came just a few days after his joint address at the 'Howdy, Modi!' event in Houston with Mr. Trump, as well as their bilateral meeting in New York.

Expression of concern "This amendment, which was accepted unanimously

by the bipartisan committee, is a strong expression of concern by the Senate about the situation in Kashmir and sends the signal that we are closely monitoring the human rights situation there, and would like to see the Government of India take those concerns seriously," Mr. Van Hollen told *The Hindu* here, adding that he had "hoped to share his concerns privately" with Prime Minister Modi, but had not been able to meet him.

Mr. Van Hollen had met with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Washington last week and Senator Bob Menendez, also a part of the delegation, met with Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal this

week in Delhi. Both Senators have made public statements in the last two months on the Kashmir situation.

Denied permission

While it is unclear whether their concerns over Kashmir elicited any responses from the government, *The Hindu* has learnt that Senator Van Hollen was rebuffed when requested permission to visit Srinagar in an effort to assess the situation on the ground.

When asked, MEA officials said the Ministry of Home Affairs handled such requests. No diplomat or foreign journalist has yet been given clearance to visit Kashmir since the government's decision on Article 370 on August 5.

Speaking at the World Economic Forum's India Economic Summit in Delhi on Friday, Mr. Jaishankar said many key decision-makers in the US had been "misinformed by their media" and that he had spent considerable efforts in the past few weeks to clear misconceptions on the government's decision to drop the "temporary" Article 370.

(With inputs from Sriram Lakshman)

Shun majority-minority mindset, says Sheikh Hasina

'Pluralism is fundamental to South Asia'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Pluralism is fundamental to South Asia and countries of the region should avoid "majority-minority mindset", Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said here on Friday.

Speaking at the World Economic Forum (WEF), the visiting leader said South Asian countries should work together to defeat common challenges like poverty.

"We should strive to secure peace, stability and harmony for every individual across our societies. We must move beyond the majority-minority mindset. Pluralism has been a strength of South Asian countries. We should be able to celebrate South Asia's regional, ethnic and linguistic diversity. This is fundamental," said Ms. Hasina.

She highlighted Dhaka's efforts to resolve difficult issues through diplomacy and pointed to the Rohingya refugees issue with Myanmar as an example that her government is trying to resolve through dialogue.

Her emphasis on pluralism is significant as it comes a day before she holds bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the backdrop of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam.

The visiting leader who is paying an official visit to India described her country as "secular progressive" and said her government follows a policy of "zero tolerance" towards corruption and ter-



Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during the closing session of the India Economic Summit in New Delhi. • PTI

Jaishankar lauds India's neighbourhood relations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

India's entire neighbourhood "minus one" has been a "fairly good story" of regional cooperation, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Friday, in an obvious reference to Pakistan.

The dilution of Article 370 did come up for discussion at his meetings during his U.S. visit, he said at a session of the India Economic Summit here. "That is natural for many people when there is a change of status...", he said in a conversation with World Economic Forum

president Borge Brende.

Discussing India's push for strengthening of ties with its neighbours, Mr. Jaishankar said, "I would say the entire neighbourhood, minus one, has actually been a fairly good story of regional cooperation."

Rising nationalism

Mr. Jaishankar said there was no doubt the world had become more nationalistic, and a lot of that nationalism was economic nationalism and cultural nationalism. In India's case, nationalism was not a negative sentiment directed at the world, he said.

rorism. In her speech at the India, Bangladesh Business Forum, she spoke about positive ties with the political leadership of India and said that both sides are geared to create an enabling environment for economic growth.

In a light-hearted manner, she referred to the hardships being faced by Bangladesh

citizens after India stopped export of onions.

"I have asked my cook not to prepare meals with onions since you have stopped sending us onions. In future, do alert us if you plan to take such steps so that we can prepare ourselves better," said Ms. Hasina.

PMC MD arrested over loan fraud

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Mumbai police on Friday arrested Joy Thomas, managing director of the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank, in connection with its investigations into the loans advanced by the bank to the Housing Development and Infrastructure Limited (HDIL) group. Meanwhile, the Enforcement Directorate, too, registered an offence in the matter on Friday.

The EOW had on Monday registered a First Information Report in connection

with the matter, after it came to light that the bank had sustained losses to the tune of ₹4,355 crore after advancing loans to the HDIL group in a fraudulent manner. On Thursday, Rakesh and Sarang Wadhawan, directors of the HDIL group, were arrested by the agency.

According to EOW officials, Mr. Thomas was brought in for questioning around 6.15 p.m. on Friday, and was placed under arrest after being grilled for around an hour.

A team of forensic auditors is currently going through the Bank's financial records.

HDIL directors sent to police custody

MUMBAI

Directors of Housing Development Infrastructure Limited (HDIL) Rakesh Kumar Wadhawan and his son Sarang Wadhawan, arrested in the case connected to financial irregularities at the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank case, have been remanded to police custody till October 9.

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)
RFI No. UCIL/TMPL/MINES/RFI/2019/01; October 01, 2019

Invitation of "Request for Information (RFI)" in one part, in prescribed format, for various long term MDO Contracts (08 years extendable by 02 years), likely to be floated by UCIL, from prospective Bidders, who are fulfilling prescribed eligibility criteria, and wish to bid for upcoming tenders for production of uranium ore by deploying underground trackless diesel-hydraulic/electro-hydraulic mining equipment from various existing and proposed underground mines located at various locations in India.

Last Date & Time for Uploading of RFI Information	3.00 PM on Thursday, October 24, 2019
Date of Opening of RFI	3.30 PM on Thursday, October 24, 2019

The full notification of the 'Request for Information' containing the prescribed format in which it is to be submitted along with other particulars can be downloaded from UCIL website <http://uraniumcorp.in/>. Corrigendum to this 'Request for Information (RFI)' notification, if any, shall be displayed in the UCIL website <http://uraniumcorp.in/> only.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Commissionerate of Agriculture
Seshadri Road, Bangalore - 560 001.

No.: DDA(FM&MI)/FM RFP/A1, A2 & E10 / 2019-20 Date : 26-09-2019

SHORT TERM RE-REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTIFICATION
Sub.: Reg. Inviting Short Term Re-Request for Proposal for Empanelment of OEM / Manufacturers / Importers / MoU Holders for supply of Tractors, Power Tillers and Combined Harvesters under Departmental subsidy Programmes and CHSC Centers for the year 2019-20 and 2020-21 reg.

Ref.: Request for Proposal Notification No.: DDA(FM&MI)/FM RFP/A1, A2 & E10/2019-20/Cal-2, Dt.: 26-09-2019.

With respect to above subject and reference, the Department of Agriculture invites 15 days Short Term Re-Request for Proposals (RFP) from OEM / Manufacturers / Importers / MoU Holders for Supply of Tractors, Power Tillers and Combined Harvesters to Farmers under Departmental Subsidy Programmes and CHSC Centers for the year 2019-20 & 2020-21. The interested OEM / Manufacturers / Importers / MoU Holders who are interested to participate in this RFP can submit their proposals through e-Procurement platform (<https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>)

The interested OEM / Manufacturers / Importers / MoU Holders can download the RFP document through e-Procurement free of cost by payment of applicable e-Procurement processing fees and the EMD amount as fixed by the Department. Applications for Short Term RFP can be downloaded from the Website : <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> from 05-10-2019 to 19-10-2019. The Last date for submission of proposals in e-Procurement platform is 19-10-2019, 4.30 pm. The Technical Bids will be opened on 22-10-2019 at 11.00 am at Samruddhi VC Hall, Commissionerate of Agriculture, Seshadri Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.

The Hard copies (Physical Deposition) of the Technical and Financial Bid along with other relevant documents uploaded in the e-Procurement portal will be received at the Office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Farm Mechanization & Micro Irrigation), Department of Agriculture, Seshadri Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 till 4.30 pm. on or before Dt. : 21-10-2019.

The Interest OEM / Manufacturers / Importers / MoU Holders have to register at the Centre for e-Governance, 1st Floor, M.S. Building, Bengaluru - 560 001 and obtain the DSC key or e-token (Helpdesk: 98801 77633 / 080-22485867 / 080-22485927).

Note : e-Procurement processing fee is non-refundable and Tender documents are non transferable.

Sd/-
Director of Agriculture and Tender Inviting Authority

DIPR/DOU/RO No.1380/2019-20

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD
Expression of Interest
KSEB Ltd is inviting Expression of Interest from Utilities and Traders for banking power with KSEB Ltd during the period from 01-02-2020 to 30-09-2020.
For details visit : www.kseb.in. For queries E-mail : dce.cp@kseb.in
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With full powers of Chief Engineer, Vydyuthi Bhavanam , Pattom
PR/MC/F142/Advt /2019

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, RR Nagar Zone, No.144, 2nd Main, Jagajyothi Layout, Bengaluru - 560 056.

No.: EE/KNG/TEND/28/2019-20 Date: 04-10-2019

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GoK e-Procurement Portal only)
The Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP invites tenders from eligible contractors for the below mentioned construction work.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amonunt Put to Tender (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Improvements of Roads and Drains in Jnanabharathi Layout, Nagadevanahalli, Dubasipalya and Surrounding SC Beneficiary Areas in Ward No.130 (Package-01) Project Cost of Work: Rs. 299.97 Lakhs	252.32	4,00,000/-
2	Improvements of Roads, Drains and Water Supply in Maruthinagara, Sonnenahalli and Surrounding SC Beneficiary areas in Ward No.130 (Package-02) Project Cost of Work: Rs. 299.97 Lakhs	249.64	4,00,000/-
3	Improvements of Roads and Drains and Providing Drilling to Borewells in Thalaghattapura Colony, Bapuji Colony of Kengeri Village area surrounding Ward No.198 under SC-SP/TSP Grants (Package-03) (2 Works) Project Cost of Work: Rs. 198.00 Lakhs	165.58	2,55,000/-
4	Improvements of Roads, Drains in Hosahalli Colony, HM Colony and Bynapalya Colony Vajarahalli Village of Ward No.198 under SC-SP/TSP Grants (Package-04) (3 Works) Project Cost of Work: Rs. 297.00 Lakhs	248.75	4,00,000/-
5	Improvements to Drain and Roads at Ward No.130 & 159 (6 Works) Project Cost of Work: Rs. 600.00 Lakhs	524.80	8,00,000/-
6	Improvements to Drain and Roads at Herohalli Colony in Ward No.72. Project Cost of Work: Rs. 99.00 Lakhs	86.61	1,75,000/-
7	Improvements to Drain and Roads at Billekallu colony and Janatha Colony at Gidadakonenahalli in Ward No.72. Project Cost of Work: Rs. 99.00 Lakhs	86.59	1,75,000/-
8	Improvements to Drain and Roads at Andrahalli Colony at Doddabidarakallu in Ward No.40. Project Cost of Work: Rs. 99.00 Lakhs	86.61	1,75,000/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from e-Procurement portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> from 11-10-2019 from 4.00 PM. (2) Pre-Bid Meeting: 14-10-2019 at 3.00 PM at Chief Engineer, RR Nagar Zone, RR Nagar. (3) Last date and time for receipt of Tenders: 19-10-2019 upto 12.30 PM. (4) Opening of Bids: 21-10-2019 at 12.30 PM at above office. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division
"Pay development charges, help to develop Bengaluru"

ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
D.No. 33-26-14 D/2, Near Sunrise Hospital, Kasturibaipet, VJAYAWADA-520 010.
Date : 30-09-2019

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
Tender No.175/APPCB/LAB/FILTERS/2019-20, 23-09-2019
Bids are invited for the supply of eight types of filter products as required by APPCB for air & water quality monitoring. The tender document along with the schedule can be downloaded from www.e-Procurement.gov.in or <https://tender.e-Procurement.gov.in>. Bids shall be submitted online through e-procurement platform only. The last date for submission of bids : 30-10-2019 by 05.00 pm. For details, contact : 8008403053.

Sd/- VIVEK YADAV, IAS
Member Secretary

ICAR-National Research Centre on Meat
Chengicherla, P.B.No - 19, Bodupally post, Hyderabad - 500 092
F.No.5-X(16)/2019-NRCM/ST Date: 03/10/2019

E-TENDER NOTICE
On behalf of Director, NRC on Meat, Hyderabad, invites e-tenders from the authorized /eligible bidders / firms registered with appropriate government for supply of equipments etc., viz., Complete Fry Line for Nuggets, LC MSMS, Strip Cutter, Automated Reagent Dispenser, Bio Analyzer Electrophoresis, Patty Making Machine, Ultra Deep Freezer etc.,. For further details, please visit websites: www.nrcmeat.icar.gov.in and CPP Portal at www.eprocure.gov.in

Sd/- STORES & PURCHASE OFFICER

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
TENDER NOTICE No. OHE/CN/Dy.CEE/2019-20/04
Dated: 03.10.2019

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Dy.Chief Electrical Engineer / OHE, Construction, Southern Railway, Chennai Egmore invites E-Tender for the following works.

Name of the Work: OHE modification works in connection with the proposed reconstruction of ROB duly demolishing the existing ROB 9R at Km.1/26-32 between Chennai Central and Basin Bridge Junction stations in Chennai Division of Southern Railway.

Date of opening of Tender	28.10.2019
For more details visit	www.ireps.gov.in

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer / OHE, Electrical Construction, Chennai Egmore-8

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
SIGNAL & TELECOMMUNICATION / MADURAI DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE No. U-SG-04-2019-20 Dated: 01.10.2019

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Southern Railway, Madurai Division for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender for the following work as per detailed tender notice given in our e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in. The tenderer(s) intending to apply need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal "www.ireps.gov.in" and only online tenders will be accepted. The cost of tender form & EMD can be made only on online gateway payment through multiple banks, net banking, debit card & credit card. The date of closing is 23.10.2019 on or before 15.00 hrs. All relevant credentials & supporting documents are to be scanned and uploaded along with the offer.

Name of the work :	LED clock with real time connectivity in Madurai Division
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Divisional Railway Manager (S&T), Madurai

Department of Fisheries
Directorate of Fisheries, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, VV Centre, Dr. Ambedkar Road, Bengaluru - 560 001
Phone: 080-22864681 Fax: 080-22864619.
E-mail: do-f-blr-ka@nic.in Website: www.karnataka.gov.in/fisheries

No: DF/16/INLU/2019 Dated: 04/10/2019

TENDER NOTIFICATION THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT

The Department of Fisheries has invited tender under two cover bid system through e-procurement vide this notification for supply of Fresh Water Prawn Juveniles (Macrobrachium rosenbergii) and Fresh Water Prawn Feed to selected ponds/tanks/reservoirs in the state.

Tender forms and documents may be downloaded from Govt. of Karnataka e-procurement website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 05/10/2019 onwards.

Last date for uploading tender is 25/10/2019 upto 5.00 pm.

EMD amount: Rs. 3.0 lakhs and Approx tender value: Rs 2.50 Crores

For more information contact : 080-23010900/901 Sd/-
Director of Fisheries

DIPR/DOU/1383/2019-20

ODISHA STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LTD. (OSCS Ltd.)
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)
Plot No.C/2, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751012
Phone : 91674-2392264

Tender No. 14627 / OSCSC / Gunny / 56 / 2018-19 Dt. 04.10.19

Managing Director, Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd, invites tenders in Double Cover System through ONLINE MODE ONLY for the works below :

- Name of the work :** Selection and appointment of transport contractors for road transportation of new gunny bales (one bale contains 500 bags) from different jute mills located in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Chhatisgarh & Odisha to custom millers premises / private hired godowns / OSCSC Ltd. own godowns / hired godowns of CWC & OSWC etc. located in different districts in the State of Odisha.
- Availability of bid document in the portal : From date 05.10.2019.
- Last Date /Time for receipt of bids in the portal : Upto 12.30 PM of dt.29.10.2019.
- Date/Time of Opening of Technical Bid : On dt.29.10.2019 at 3.30 P.M.
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Tender : Managing Director, OSCSC Ltd., BBSR.

Tender Documents & other details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Amendments / corrigendum / cancellation / retenders etc. if any shall be published only in above website.

Managing Director, OSCSC Ltd., BBSR

Hong Kong invokes emergency powers

Lam says the colonial era laws allow govt. to ‘make any regulations whatsoever’ in public interest

REUTERS
HONG KONG

Hong Kong’s embattled leader Carrie Lam invoked colonial-era emergency powers on Friday for the first time in more than 50 years in a dramatic move intended to quell escalating violence in the Chinese-ruled city.

Ms. Lam, speaking at a news conference, said a ban on face masks would take effect on Saturday under the emergency laws that allow authorities to “make any regulations whatsoever” in whatever they deem to be in the public interest.



Face of protests: Demonstrators marching on a street in Hong Kong on Friday. ■ GETTY IMAGES

China’s Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office praised the move in a statement that said the protests were evolving into a “colour revolution”, a term coined to refer to popular uprisings in Ukraine and other former Soviet states that swept away long-standing rulers, with interference from external forces.

“Hong Kong has reached a critical moment to stop the

chaotic situation with more effective measures,” it said. “The current chaotic situation in Hong Kong cannot continue indefinitely.”

The emergency laws allow curfews, censorship of the media, control of harbours, ports and transport, although Ms. Lam did not specify any particular action that might follow beyond the mask ban. But it was far from clear if the introduction of

emergency powers would deter the protesters.

Crowds took to the streets even before the decision was announced, swelling as night fell. Banks and shops in the busy Central district closed early in anticipation of violence as some protesters burned Chinese flags and chanted “You burn with us”, and “Hong Kongers, revolt”.

Thousands of demonstrators gathered in other parts

of the territory, filling shopping malls and blocking roads as protests looked set to continue into the night. Bus routes were suspended and rail operator MTR closed stations.

Hidden identity
Many protesters wear masks to hide their identity due to fears employers could face pressure to take action against them.

“Almost all protesters wear masks, with the intention of hiding their identity. That’s why they have become more unbridled,” said Ms. Lam. “We can’t keep the existing regulations idle and let violence escalate and the situation continue to deteriorate.” Ms. Lam described the territory as being in serious danger, but not in a state of emergency.

Pro-Beijing groups had been pushing for a mask ban but it was not clear how the government would implement it in a city where many of its 7.4 million residents wear them every day to protect against infection following the outbreak of the deadly SARS in 2003.

Police can stop anyone in public and ask them to remove a mask if the officer believes it may prevent identification, according to the law. Exceptions are made if the person wearing a mask can prove they need it for medical, religious or professional reasons.

Trump aides pushed Ukraine to commit to probe Biden

They drafted a statement for Zelensky to serve as a commitment

KENNETH P. VOGEL
MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT
WASHINGTON

Two of President Donald Trump’s top envoys to Ukraine drafted a statement for the country’s new President in August that would have committed Ukraine to pursuing investigations sought by Mr. Trump into his political rivals, three people briefed on the effort said.

Their work on the statement is new evidence of how Mr. Trump began driving senior diplomats to bend American foreign policy to the President’s political agenda in the weeks after the July 25 call between the two leaders.

The statement was worked on by Gordon Sondland, the U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, and Kurt Volker, then the State Department’s envoy to Ukraine, according to the three people in the know.



Legal tangle: Kurt Volker leaving after being questioned by House investigators in Washington on Thursday. ■ AP

Wrong and appalling: Romney

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Republican Senator Mitt Romney, a frequent critic of Donald Trump, said on Friday it was “wrong and appalling” for the President to urge China and Ukraine to launch investigations of a chief political rival, Joe Biden.

“By all appearances, the President’s brazen and unprecedented appeal to

China and to Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden is wrong and appalling,” tweeted Mr. Romney, the Republican presidential nominee in 2012.

Earlier this week, Chuck Grassley, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, broke with Mr. Trump to defend a whistleblower, who filed a complaint against President Trump.

U.S., allies push FB for access to encryption

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

The U.S., the U.K. and Australia have called on Facebook Inc to not go ahead with end-to-end encryption across its messaging services unless law enforcement officials have backdoor access, saying encryption hindered the fight against child abuse and terrorism.

The U.S. and U.K. also signed a data agreement that would fast track requests to technology companies for information.

Death toll in Iraq clashes rises to 44

PM Mahdi says there is no ‘magic solution’ to problems, makes reform pledges

REUTERS
BAGHDAD

The death toll from days of violent demonstrations across Iraq surged to 44 on Friday, most of them killed in the last 24 hours, as unrest rapidly accelerated across the country despite a plea from the prime minister for calm.

In an overnight TV address, Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi said he understood the frustration of the public but there was no “magic solution” to Iraq’s problems. He made reform



On the rampage: Anti-government protesters burning an armoured police vehicle during a protest in Baghdad. ■ AP

pledges, but these drew a scornful response from demonstrators.

The violent demonstrations have escalated by the day since they first erupted

on Tuesday, sweeping across the country spontaneously, without public backing from any organised political group.

Security forces have fired live ammunition at crowds of mainly young men, and gunmen have occasionally fired back. Hundreds of people have been wounded, including members of the security forces as well as demonstrators.

Police and medical sources have put death toll at 44. Curfews were imposed in a number of cities.

UAE to invest \$5 billion in Pak. oil refinery project, says report

The venture will be launched in Hub, Balochistan province

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD/DUBAI

The United Arab Emirates will invest a whopping \$5 billion in an oil refinery project in cash-strapped Pakistan by the end of the year, the Gulf nation’s envoy was quoted as saying by a media report on Friday.

“This project will show the strength of UAE-Pakistan relations and how the UAE is focusing on investment in and future of Pakistan,” UAE Ambassador to Pakistan Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi was quoted as saying by the Arab News.

“We are going to launch very soon one of the biggest

investments in a refinery project in Hub (in Pakistan’s Balochistan province),” Mr. Al-Zaabi said.

It is going to be a \$5 billion investment venture between Mubadala Petroleum Company of Abu Dhabi, Pak Arab Refinery Limited (Parco) and OMV (OMV Pakistan Exploration Gesellschaft), he said.

According to the report, which was carried by major Pakistani newspapers on Friday, the project was a result of “extensive discussions” between Mubadala Petroleum, Pakistan’s Petroleum Ministry as well as Parco and OMV.

The envoy said the two

countries were moving forward on new projects and investment. The UAE Ambassador said that the two governments were “finalising the minute details of this refinery project”.

Many meetings have taken place on the oil refinery project, he said. A delegation from the UAE, headed by the chief executive officer of Mubadala Petroleum, had met with the Board of Investment chairman and the Petroleum Minister during a visit to Pakistan a few months ago. “They have discussed this project in detail. We are going to launch it very soon,” Mr. Al-Zaabi said.

Gotabaya gets relief from court

Petition challenging the presidential candidate’s citizenship has been dismissed

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

A Sri Lankan court on Friday dismissed a petition challenging the validity of presidential hopeful Gotabaya Rajapaksa’s Sri Lankan citizenship, clearing the way for his candidacy in the November 16 presidential election.

The petitioners had sought interim relief, arguing that Mr. Rajapaksa – who resumed his Sri Lankan citizenship in 2005, three years after he became an American citizen – had obtained his documentation “fraudulently”.

Counsel for the petitioners – activists Gamini Viyanagoda and Chandraguptha Thenuwara – and the respondents, including Gota-



Gotabaya Rajapaksa

baya Rajapaksa and his brother and former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, principally argued over whether then newly sworn-in President Rajapaksa had the powers to sign his brother’s citizenship document – on November 21, 2005 – two days after he was sworn in,

and before a Cabinet was appointed. Submissions from both sides were heard over three days and concluded on Friday. At 6 p.m., the three-judge panel unanimously ruled dismissing the petition.

Dozens of lawyers, prominent politicians and journalists had gathered in the packed court room where some black-cloaked lawyers rejoiced even before the judge pronounced the full order, drawing instant flak from the President of the Court of Appeal Yasantha Kodagoda.

Meanwhile, hours ahead of the ruling that could have potentially impacted Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (People’s Party or SLPP) candidate Mr. Gotabaya’s bid, his

eldest brother and former Speaker Chamal Rajapaksa placed his deposit to run for presidency as an independent candidate, sparking speculation over the Rajapaksa camp’s apparent ‘Plan B’ for the polls, should the ruling go against their candidate.

However, with the legal challenge out of the way, war-time Defence Secretary Gotabaya – seen to be a polarising figure especially among Tamil and Muslim minorities – will now be able to contest polls, facing the ruling United National Party (UNP)’s Sajith Premadasa, the leftist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna’s Anura Kumara Dissanayake and former Army commander Mahesh Senanayake, among others.

ELSEWHERE



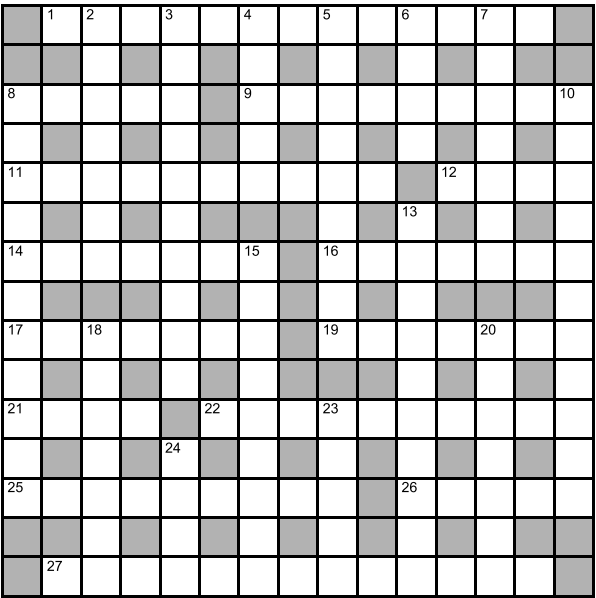
Prince Harry to sue Sun, Mirror for privacy breach
LONDON

Britain’s Prince Harry is set to sue the *Sun* and the *Daily Mirror* over allegations of illegal interception of voicemail messages. He and his wife have accused a section of British press of “bullying” behaviour. **REUTERS**

Houthi offer of truce in Yemen ‘positive’: Riyadh
RIYADH

Saudi Arabia gave a “positive” response on Friday to a truce offer from Houthi rebels in Yemen and called for its implementation. Since 2015, Riyadh has led a military coalition against the Houthis, who are backed by Iran. **AFP**

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12748



ACROSS

- 1 Kite say around shore finds lifeless snails at last in small amounts (5,3,5)
- 8 Throws husband off the edge of the roof (5)
- 9 They are interested in shooting stars? (9)
- 11 Drink one beverage with spot of Scotch at the end of day to relax (4,2,4)

- 12 Search around to get hold of right frame (4)
- 14 Pointed out injured duck, nearly dead (7)
- 16 One seen in circus trick, smooth reportedly (7)
- 17 Entrance of exotic sirens around middle of night (7)
- 19 Oddly Britain struggles in fight for visionary goal (7)
- 21 They are charged in public houses for a little naughty love (4)
- 22 Mock fellows retained by expert to reorganise files on disk (10)
- 25 Silly Republican ass in US beginning to crow, he’s self-obsessed (9)
- 26 Scoundrel killing a little rare animal (5)
- 27 Drama, difficult to understand, pretend to be uninterested (4,4,2,3)

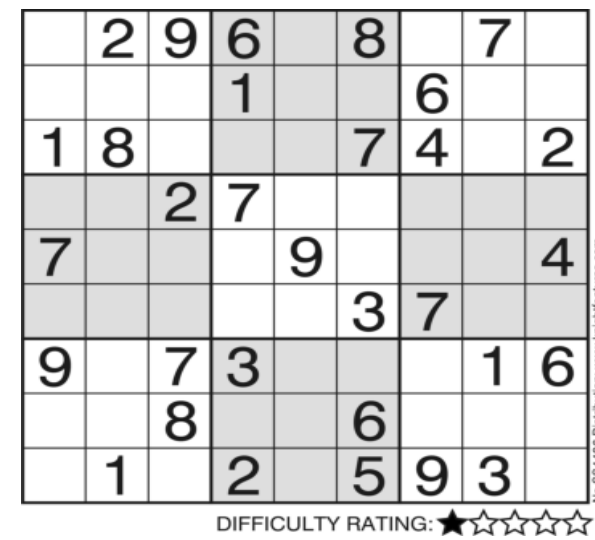
DOWN

- 2 Endlessly upset about sanction, director withdrew (7)
- 3 Contaminated herbs – medic gets dishonoured (10)

(set by Dr. X)

- 4 Big politician overwhelmed by alcoholic spirit (5)
- 5 Retired journalist, badly off, about to meet investor (9)
- 6 Unusual hazard after Republican replaces Democrat (4)
- 7 Oddball in Spanish island going topless – blunder in retrospect (7)
- 8 Removal of one offending issue containing ten revolting illustrations (11)
- 10 Where a diver might be experiencing difficulty (2,4,5)
- 13 Got roaring drunk, showing great enthusiasm (6,2,2)
- 15 Daisy foolishly consumes bit of strong spirit leading to indigestion (9)
- 18 Popular girl consuming ecstasy, intimate after losing bit of awareness (7)
- 20 Extremely risqué, wearing wet pant (7)
- 23 Some facades arbitrarily knocked back and demolished (5)
- 24 Terse husband concealed sorrow (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12747

C	A	S	T	A	N	E	T	S	P	L			
O	A	L	R	A	U	P	A						
H	O	T	E	L	R	E	G	I	S	T	R	A	R
O	E	L	O	A	C	H	O	A					
R	E	L	E	V	A	N	C	E					
T	I	L	E	D	T	H	E	S					
	T	I	A	R	A	S		S	T	E	R	I	L
A	T	T	H	E	D								
S	E	E	T	H	E	D							
A	T	R	I	P	E								
S	E	L	I	V	L	E							
S	K	E	D	A	D	D	L	E					
I	V	C	E	J	I	P	E	A					
N	E	E	D	E	D								

Solution to yesterday’s Sudoku

5	1	9	2	7	4	6	8	3
8	6	2	1	5	3	7	4	9
3	7	4	8	9	6	2	1	5
9	4	6	7	2	5	1	3	8
2	3	8	6	4	1	5	9	7
7	5	1	3	8	9	4	6	2
1	2	7	4	3	8	9	5	6
4	8	5	9	6	7	3	2	1
6	9	3	5	1	2	8	7	4

FAITH

Rama vows to protect

Though the elimination of Ravana is the purpose of Rama avatar, acharyas and interpreters of Valmiki Ramayana aver in one voice that the doctrine of Saranagati is the central theme in the kavya. This truth stands out against Rama’s efforts to hide His Paratva under the guise of a human being, pointed out Damal Sri Ramakrishnan and Srimati Perundevi in a discourse. Rama’s commitment to dharma is the essence of His character, nature and personality. In the very first verse of the Aranya kanda, Valmiki points out that Rama’s countenance and appearance reflect His unassailable and self controlled nature even as He walks forth into Dan-dakaranya forest with His Kodanda strung in position. This is indicative of the purposes of His incarnation, to protect the good, destroy the evil and establish dharma.

The sages in the forest are aware of His divine nature and welcome Rama, Sita and Lakshmana with great joy, warmth and customary hospitality. They explain the many practical difficulties they face at the hands of the rakshasas whenever they try to perform yagas and yagnas. Their total faith in Rama makes them acknowledge their inability to protect themselves from the powerful rakshasas. They point out that Rama is their lord and king, whether He remains in Ayodhya or in the forest. Hence it is only proper that Rama should ensure that they are able to perform their sacrifices without any hindrance.

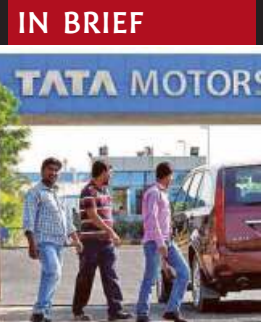
Rama vows to protect those who have sought unconditional refuge in Him. So He gives topmost priority to this promise even as He upholds Dasaratha’s word. Later, when He accepts Vibhishana, Rama reiterates His dharma that cannot reject anyone including Ravana if he seeks Him.

MARKET WATCH		
	04-10-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	37,673	-1.14
US Dollar	70.88	-0.01
Gold	39,075	0.54
Brent oil	58.01	0.97

NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	394.60	-9.30
Asian Paints	1724.40	-24.55
Axis Bank	656.40	-12.00
Bajaj Auto	2863.55	-34.35
Bajaj Finserv	8300.75	-145.70
Bajaj Finance	3903.95	-55.85
Bharti Airtel	339.50	-5.40
BPCL	515.55	-16.05
Britannia Ind	2845.15	-57.80
Cipla	418.35	0.25
Coal India	185.80	-0.95
Dr Reddys Lab	2617.70	-59.45
Eicher Motors	17999.00	-285.65
GAIL (India)	132.15	0.45
Grasim Ind	654.40	-25.25
HCL Tech	1079.10	2.30
HDFC	1978.30	3.75
HDFC Bank	1189.70	-33.85
Hero MotoCorp	2668.30	0.85
Hindalco	182.10	-0.50
Hind Unilever	1944.20	-17.85
ICICI Bank	413.90	-13.40
IndusInd Bank	1265.30	9.80
Bharti Infratel	245.70	-2.55
Infosys	793.45	7.85
Indian OilCorp	151.05	-0.70
ITC	257.25	-4.40
JSW Steel	214.65	-6.90
Kotak Bank	1563.15	-52.60
L&T	1424.90	-33.15
M&M	564.25	1.55
Maruti Suzuki	6649.60	-104.45
Nestle India Ltd.	13441.00	-268.85
NTPC	117.40	0.65
ONGC	129.55	1.45
PowerGrid Corp	196.55	-2.55
Reliance Ind	1308.10	-2.95
State Bank	249.95	-4.20
Sun Pharma	386.05	-2.10
Tata Motors	119.65	-2.75
Tata Steel	333.10	-6.50
TCS	2079.35	19.10
Tech Mahindra	708.15	5.65
Titan	1250.90	-44.60
UltraTech Cement	3979.55	-167.25
UPL	582.55	-11.85
Vedanta	143.30	-1.10
Wipro	237.70	1.85
YES Bank	42.15	-0.35
Zee Entertainment	236.85	-14.70

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on October 04		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	70.68	71.00
Euro	77.60	77.95
British Pound	87.13	87.53
Japanese Yen (100)	66.20	66.50
Chinese Yuan	9.89	9.93
Swiss Franc	71.11	71.43
Singapore Dollar	51.26	51.49
Canadian Dollar	53.09	53.34
Malaysian Ringgit	16.87	16.97
Source: Indian Bank		

BULLION RATES CHENNAI		
October 04 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses		
Retail Silver (1g)	49.1	(49.3)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3644	(3630)



Tata Motors bags order to supply 300 e-buses
MUMBAI
Tata Motors has bagged a contract for 300 e-buses from Ahmedabad Janmarg Ltd. (AJL). "This mandate to Tata Motors is the largest in the country so far, making Tata Motors the only Indian OEM to bag the biggest order supporting the government's e-mobility drive in the country," the company said. Tata Motors would supply Urban 9/9 electric model buses which will run in Ahmedabad's BRTS corridor.

Lakshmi Vilas Bank shares hit a new low
CHENNAI
Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) shares hit the 5% lower circuit on Friday at ₹29.85 on the NSE, which was similar to the level seen in March 2009. The bank's shares, which touched ₹28.05 on March 6, 2009, rose to a high of ₹188.35 on July 7, 2017 before starting to decline. LVB shares have been on the decline over the last few weeks and this worsened when the Reserve Bank initiated Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) on the bank last week.

Services sector activity contracts in September
NEW DELHI
India's services sector activity contracted in September and fell to its lowest level since February 2018, amid weak demand, competitive pressures and challenging market conditions, a monthly survey, released on Friday, showed. The IHS Markit India Services Business Activity Index fell to 48.7 in September from 52.4 in August on lacklustre demand. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below that denotes contraction. PTI

INTERVIEW | SHAKTIKANTA DAS

'No reason to doubt government's commitment to fiscal deficit'

I am not aware of any demand from the government for payment of interim dividend, says the RBI Governor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das discussed a wide range issues during the post-policy interaction with the media. Edited excerpts:

Did the MPC deliberate on the impact of corporate tax rate cut on fiscal deficit and if yes, what was the outcome?

■ The government has made a statement that they will adhere to the fiscal deficit target of the current year. So, we have no reason to doubt the commitment of the government to maintain fiscal deficit number as given in the Budget. [The] government has several sources of revenue. So, whatever shortfall is expected because of the announcement of the corporate tax rate cut, the government has the option of making it up through oth-

er sources.

Are the open market operations of the RBI only to ensure adequate liquidity or are they used to enable further transmission ?

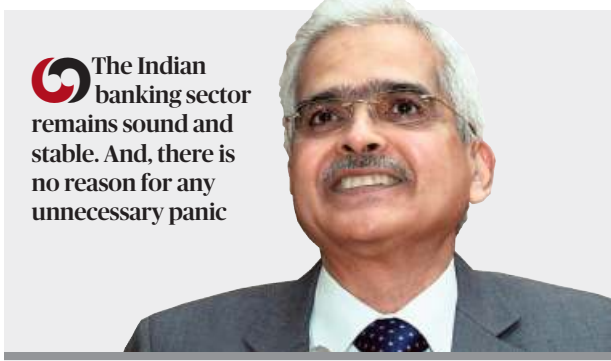
■ OMO [open market operations] is basically a liquidity instrument. In our internal working group report, it has been stated that the RBI has several instruments to infuse liquidity. OMO remains in our toolkit. Then, we have forex swaps which we had introduced last year. Term repo is also something which has been added. So far as the RBI is concerned, OMO will be done to deal with the li-

quidity situation, either to infuse or suck out liquidity. [The] RBI does not manage yields. Yields are market driven.

Is there a lower bound for policy rates?

■ We have not said anything on the lower bound of policy rates. What we have said is that as long as the growth momentum remains as it is, and till the growth is revived, the RBI will continue to remain in an accommodative mode. At this point, it is not possible to comment where the RBI will take a pause.

There are reports that the government is asking for ₹30,000 crore in interim dividend. But the Bimal Jalan Committee report suggested that there will be no interim dividend. Can



you please clarify?

■ I also saw it in the media. I am not aware of any such demand from the government for payment of interim dividend.

Was there a discussion in the MPC about the ongoing crisis in the PMC Bank?

■ This is not within the pur-

view of the MPC. But I would like to say that so far as the RBI is concerned, we would like to make it very clear that the Indian banking sector remains sound and stable. And there is no reason for any unnecessary panic. As soon as this issue came to our notice, the RBI acted very swiftly and promptly. One incident should not be used as generalised health of the coopera-

tive banking sector.

Do you think imposing prompt corrective action (PCA) would have been a better option?

■ Where PCA is appropriate, the RBI will use that framework. We have placed a private sector bank under PCA recently.

Imposing PCA is nothing new. In the past also, the RBI has put banks under PCA. This is to ensure timely steps are taken to bring the bank [back on track].

The RBI has reduced GDP forecast for FY20 sharply, by 80 bps. But why did you cut the rate only by 25 bps?

■ You have to see it at the back of 110 bps rate [cut] which has been done. It is 135 bps rate cut now between

February to October.

PMC Bank was hiding NPAs for the last eight years. Why was the RBI unable to spot that?

■ The RBI is looking into all aspects of this particular bank. The matter is under investigation by the Economic Offences Wing.

So, at this point in time, I would not like to go into further details.

Will the RBI prefer cooperative banks to be completely regulated by it?

■ Every such incident is an experience. Based on that experience, we will obviously give a fresh look at the regulatory framework that is in existence. And, if any changes are required, we will take it up with the government.

Income threshold to avail microfinance increased

Lending limit per borrower also raised from ₹1 lakh to ₹1.25 lakh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

In a move that will enable more borrowers to avail loans from microfinance institutions (MFI), the Reserve Bank of India has decided to raise the household income limit of borrowers to ₹2 lakh for urban and semi urban areas from ₹1.6 lakh.

For rural areas, the limit has been increased from ₹1 lakh to ₹1.25 lakh. Loans by MFIs to such borrowers are uncollateralised.

The lending limit per borrower has also been hiked from ₹1 lakh to ₹1.25 lakh.



play their assigned role in a growing economy. "This is a good move reflecting the change in household income since 2015 and allows clients to avail higher loan amounts from RBI-regulated... institutions," said Manoj Nambiar, chairperson, Microfinance Institutions Network.

"This change will provide more room to NBFC-MFIs to lend and allow more households access to credit. Microfinance lenders will use this increased limit to continue to lend to the over 50 million borrowers," Mr. Nambiar added.

The RBI said the decision was taken after taking into consideration the important role played by MFIs in delivering credit to those at the bottom of the economic pyramid and enable them to

India's e-commerce war of sales and claims

Both Amazon and Flipkart say their sales for the season are the highest-ever in India's e-com history

MINI TEJASWI YUTHIKA BHARGAVA BENGALURU NEW DELHI

E-commerce major Amazon and its arch rival, Walmart-owned Flipkart, have independently claimed that their sales for this season – Great India Festival and The Big Billion Days, respectively – were the highest-ever in India's e-commerce history.

Flipkart on Friday said it had clocked 70 billion views in six days of The Big Billion Days (TBBDs). It also said there was almost 50% growth in the number of new customers, as compared to last year. Also, more than 50% of Flipkart Plus shoppers were from tier 2 cities while units from tier 3 cities grew by 100% over last year, it said.

Interestingly, September 30, 2019, was the single largest day for e-commerce in the country. This year's festive seasons sales begun with



Amazon says 62% of users who placed orders for appliances had them delivered and installed in 36 hours. ■ AFP

a big bang with both e-tailers claiming record sales and overwhelming responses.

Amazon, too, on Friday said that in its Great Indian Festival celebration, sellers witnessed record sales across popular categories in Wave 1 of the fest that ran between September 29 and

October 4, preceded by a 12-hour Prime Early Access. OnePlus reported 80% growth over last year, with sales crossing ₹700 crore.

As per research agency Nielsen, Amazon.in witnessed the highest share of transacting customers and purchases across all online

shopping platforms in the first five days of the Great Indian Festival 2019.

As per data from Amazon India, customers from 99.4% of India's postal codes placed an order during the Great Indian Festival. Some 62% of customers who placed orders for appliances had them delivered and installed within 36 hours. On the busiest day, there were more than 600 flights delivering packages to its customers, said Amazon.

Big sales in a slowdown? "There is also postponing of discretionary (or not-urgent) buying and hence it is not a surprise that the big online/e-commerce sales are still where bargain seekers are active. It is very difficult with these trends to gauge whether there is a slowdown or not. We need to look at other economic and consumption markers which are more

long term," commented Pawan Kumar S, partner and leader – Technology, Media and Telecom sector and Technology Consulting at PwC India.

Phones rule the roost Smart phones seem to have led the sales, in terms of value and volumes, followed by discounted products such as laptops, home appliances, electronic items including TVs, fashion accessories, beauty products, travel and even groceries.

This has been the biggest festive season for mobiles till date, with brands achieving more than twofold growth over last year. More than 20 models sold over 100,000 units each this year, which was a first for any event, said Flipkart.

Amazon reported a 15-fold sales growth among brands such as Samsung, OnePlus, Apple, Xiaomi and Vivo. New

MTNL shares surge on talks of revival plan

PMO asks panel to weigh turnaround

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Shares of loss-making Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) hit their upper circuit of 20% to touch ₹7.87 on reports of the government planning to revive the telecom company.

MTNL shares closed 16.46% higher at ₹7.64 as the counter saw a jump in volume by 8.4 times in a weak Mumbai market on Friday, valuing the company at ₹481.32 crore.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) is learnt to have asked a panel, looking into the revival of MTNL and BSNL, to explain if the two telecom PSUs can be turned around.

This was after the Finance Ministry raised objections to a proposal moved by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for reviving the two PSUs.



The Finance Ministry had objected to reviving BSNL and MTNL.

DoT had proposed a ₹74,000-crore revival package for Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and MTNL as closure of BSNL alone would cost over ₹95,000 crore to the exchequer. The plan includes proposed merger of MTNL with BSNL, voluntary retirement scheme (VRS), allotment of 4G spectrum and capital expenditure needs.

Adani Green Energy arms to issue bonds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Adani Green Energy on Friday said its arms have approved issuance of bonds worth \$362.5 million.

The notes will be listed on Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited, the company said.

"The respective board of directors of Adani Renewable Energy (RJ) Ltd. (ARERJL), Wardha Solar (Maharashtra) Private Ltd. (WSMPL) and Kodangal Solar Parks Private Ltd. (KSPL) and collectively with ARERJL and WSMPL the issuers), being wholly owned subsidiaries of Adani Green Energy, have approved the issuance of senior secured green bonds (notes) aggregating to \$362.5 million," it said.

Charging infra guidelines for electric vehicles get nod

One charging station in 3x3 km grid in all cities mandated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Under the new guidelines for the electric vehicle charging infrastructure approved by Power Minister R.K. Singh on Friday, there must be at least one charging station in a grid of 3 x 3 km in all megacities and one charging station every 25 km on both sides of highways.

"In order to address the range of issues of electric vehicle owners, a phase-wise installation of an appropriate network of charging infrastructure throughout the country has been envisaged in the guidelines, ensuring that at least one charging station should be available in a grid of 3 km X 3



km in the cities and one charging station at every 25 km on both sides of highways/roads," the government said in a release.

First phase is 1-3 years The first phase of the plan (1-3 years) will cover all megacities with a population of

more than four million as per the 2011 Census, and all expressways and highways connected to these megacities. The second phase (3-5 years) will cover other big cities such as State capitals.

"To address concerns in inter-city travel and long range and heavy duty EVs, fast-charging stations for [vehicles] like buses/trucks shall be installed every 100 km," the release said.

"Assuming that most of the charging of EVs would take place at homes or offices where the decision of using fast or slow chargers would rest with consumers, private charging at residences/offices shall be permitted."

TAKE THREE: FOOTBALL THIS WEEKEND



INTER MILAN v JUVENTUS | Kick-off: Monday, 12.15 a.m. (IST)

Inter Milan, which has won all its six Serie A games this season, hosts Juventus, which has won the last eight league titles, on Sunday. In a neat twist, Antonio Conte, who has whipped Inter into league-leading shape, will be plotting against Juventus, where he presided over a hat-trick of Serie A titles. With Italy already beginning to look like a two-horse race, there's a lot riding on this top-of-the-table contest.



BARCELONA v SEVILLA | Kick-off: Monday, 12.30 a.m. (IST)

Barcelona has struggled this season, Lionel Messi's injury-enforced absence not helping matters. There have also been reports of unrest within the camp. But Messi, who played the full 90 minutes for the first time this season during the mid-week win in Europe, quashed talk of discord, and said he was just getting started. Sevilla, in the hunt for a top-four spot, will be keen to stall Messi and Barcelona's revival.



LEVERKUSEN v RB LEIPZIG | Kick-off: Saturday, 7 p.m. (IST)

Under Julian Nagelsmann, the 32-year-old tactical whiz, Leipzig has looked a contender in the early running. But this weekend, Bayern Munich, just beginning to find its feet, plays Nagelsmann's former side Hoffenheim, languishing in the bottom half, whereas Leipzig has the more difficult prospect of Leverkusen away. It's a tricky fixture – conceding any ground to Bayern in the first 10 games isn't advisable.

Can the Rodgers revolution disrupt the Premier League's pecking order?

The Leicester manager has transformed the club's football, raising hope among its fans that it can outperform England's 'Big Six'. Saturday's game against Liverpool at Anfield will offer a measure of where it stands

The Premier League's main-event this weekend features a homecoming, with Brendan Rodgers returning to Anfield, where he was a fan-favourite, especially in 2013-14 when Liverpool played with an attacking swagger that was seldom matched by its rivals.

The Reds' second-place finish that season was the high point of Rodgers' term – it hasn't been bettered since 1989-90, when Liverpool last won the league.

After his dismissal in 2015, Rodgers enjoyed enormous success in Scotland, guiding Celtic to trebles in both his full seasons with the club, before taking the reins at Leicester City in late February this year.

"I'm really looking forward [to returning to Anfield] because I haven't been back since I left," Rodgers said, ahead of Saturday's game. "It's an incredible club which was great for me in my time there. I learned so much and was given great experiences. Of course, they have been amazing these last couple of years – Champions League winners – so I'm looking forward to going back."

Strong start

Liverpool, after missing out on the Premier League title by just a point in 2018-19, has made a stunning start to the season, winning all seven games. Leicester hasn't been too shabby itself, taking 14 points from its seven games to sit behind Liverpool (21 points) and defending champion Manchester City (16).

Indeed, the Foxes have been in such good nick that some experts have tipped them to end the pecking order established by the 'Big Six' – City, Liverpool, Tottenham Hotspur, Chelsea, Arsenal and Manchester United – at the top of the table.

"It's still very early, we're

not getting carried away," said Rodgers, when asked about it. "The top six have been there for a number of years and the numbers have shown they have pulled away from the teams below. The top six are there, it's going to be tough but we could fight to challenge that superiority, so that's the aim."

Rodgers may be keen to downplay his side's chances, but it is hard to ignore his impact. Since taking over from Claude Puel, the 46-year-old has revolutionised Leicester's play and raised fans' hopes of a return to European competition since the 2016-17 season which followed the club's shock Premier League triumph.

The transformation has been so remarkable that Leicester, which was 11th on the table when the Northern Irishman took over, has won 31 points since then – more

LEICESTER'S SHAPE UNDER RODGERS

■ The side sets up in a 4-1-4-1, but can and often does change shape during a game

■ The attacking width is supplied by the full-backs (Pereira and Chilwell) or the advanced midfielders on the outside (Perez and Maddison)

■ Vardy's in-to-out runs often lure a centre-back wide, opening up central space for Tielemans and Maddison to attack

■ Vardy also executes the counter run, out to in, and his constant movement occupies more than one defender, giving Leicester opportunities to outnumber the opposition in other regions of the pitch



How Rodgers' Leicester compares with the 'Big Six'

Only Liverpool and Manchester City have won more Premier League points than Leicester City since Brendan Rodgers took charge of the Foxes in late February this year

	Matches	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
Liverpool	17	16	1	0	49
City	17	15	1	1	46
Leicester	17	9	4	4	31
Chelsea	18	8	6	4	30
Arsenal	17	7	5	5	26
Tottenham	17	6	4	7	22
United	17	5	5	7	20



than any other team in the league barring Liverpool and City (*See: How Rodgers' Leicester compares with the 'Big Six'*).

The change in Leicester's style has been dramatic: the side has come a long way from the passive, reactive football it had slipped into. Rodgers has turned it into a slick machine that can still counter attack with the furious pace it was known for at its best, but also dominate possession and pass its way around and through the opposition.

Versatile

"If you look at the top two teams in this country [City and Liverpool], they're brilliant with the ball," Rodgers said after the 5-0 win over Newcastle last weekend. "They can have long periods of possession, 60-70%, but when they have to counter attack, they counter attack. We saw that from us. We pressed hard, we were hungry for goals."

Experts agree that coaching a progressive style of play is difficult; to do it at a club not used to the style requires a fundamental shift in the way in which the players understand the game. Old tendencies – the itch to hoof a ball long, for instance – don't change overnight. Rodgers' training-ground work has got Leicester more comfortable in possession.

"I think it's what you see building out from the back as, whether you see it as an opportunity or a risk," Rodgers said recently, about the challenges of implementing a more patient build-up of play. "It depends how you are as a coach. There will be mistakes in it, but there is a great opportunity in the modern game, when you build your game from deeper, [opposition] teams have a

longer area to press."

Wanting the ball also involves a commitment to pressing the opposition when you don't have it, to win it back. It's no surprise, therefore, that the intensity of Leicester's pressing has been the most visible aspect of the side's improvement since Rodgers took over.

Advanced statistics back up the impression that the pressing intensity has increased – Sky Sports reported that according to a metric measuring a side's defensive actions in the attacking two-thirds of the pitch, relative to the number of passes the opposition managed, Leicester was second this season; last season, it was in the bottom half.

Given how demanding pressing is physically, it's clear that the dressing room has bought into Rodgers' vision. The manager credited influential senior players Kasper Schmeichel, Jonny Evans and Jamie Vardy – "They have been fantastic in terms of the leadership" – but he has also got a lot out of his young talent, the likes of centre-back Caglar Soyuncu, left-back Ben Chilwell, midfielders Wilfred Ndidi and Youri Tielemans, and playmaker James Maddison, all 23 or younger.

So, just how good are Rodgers' Foxes? The underlying numbers suggest they have top-six potential. They are among the league's best on several parameters – fewest goals conceded (5, joint with Liverpool), second-fewest shots conceded per game (8.7), most tackles per game (23), fourth-most possession enjoyed (54.7%), sixth-most dribbles per game (10.7). Saturday's fixture will offer an observable sense of where they stand, for they come up against this season's gold standard. SPORTS BUREAU, REUTERS & AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE



WORD PLAY

Chancery

● **What is it?** It's a fight-sport term used to denote a hold which involves circling the opponent's head with an arm. In boxing, it's a clinch, which the referee will break up. In MMA, it's a move utilised to gain control of a fighter's head and spine; it's loosely called a headlock.

● **Why is it used?** Boxers use it as a defensive tactic, to interfere with the opponent's momentum and buy time to recover. MMA fighters and grapplers employ it to restrain a resisting opponent, who can then be manipulated into more dangerous submission positions.



● **When did it originate?** The hold was used in 17th-century bare-knuckle boxing, a blend of standing wrestling and striking. It was popular in early prize-fights before it was deemed illegal. Modern boxing, expectedly, frowns on it, but the advent of MMA has made it fashionable.

● **How was the term coined?** It reminded early prize-fighters of England's old Court of Chancery, known 'for the tenacity and absolute control' with which it 'held anything', as the Oxford English Dictionary described it. Fighters subjected to the hold found it just as relentless as the legal body.

ON THE BOX



■ **Premier League:** SAT: Brighton v Tottenham, 4.40 P.M.; Liverpool v Leicester, 7.15 P.M.; West Ham v Crystal Palace, 9.45 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 & HD. SUN: Manchester City v Wolves, 6.20 P.M.; Newcastle v Manchester United, 8.40 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 & HD. Southampton v Chelsea, 6.20 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 & HD.

■ **Bundesliga:** SAT: Bayern Munich v Hoffenheim, 6.45 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 & HD.

■ **Serie A:** SAT: Spal v Parma, 6.30 P.M.; Hellas Verona v Sampdoria, 9.30 P.M.; SONY TEN 2 & HD. SUN: Genoa v AC Milan, 12.15 A.M.; Fiorentina v Udinese, 4 P.M.; Roma v Cagliari, 6.30 P.M.; Torino v Napoli, 9.30 P.M.; SONY TEN 2 & HD.

■ **PKL:** SAT: UP v Delhi, 7.15 P.M.; Gujarat v Patna, 8.30 P.M.; STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & HD. SUN: Bengal v Patna, 7.15 P.M.; UP v Pune, 8.30 P.M.; STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & HD.

■ **NBA pre-season:** SAT: Pacers v Kings, 7 P.M.; SONY TEN 1, 3 & HD.

■ **Athletics World Championships:** SAT: 7 P.M.; STAR SPORTS 3; 9 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 & HD. SUN: 11.40 P.M.; STAR SPORTS 3; 9.30 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 & HD.

STACKING UP



ICC Test Rankings

#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	India	35	4,027	115
2	New Zealand	26	2,829	109
3	South Africa	27	2,917	108
4	England	42	4,366	104
5	Australia	33	3,270	99
6	Sri Lanka	40	3,795	95
7	Pakistan	27	2,263	84
8	West Indies	32	2,570	80
9	Bangladesh	23	1,413	61
10	Afghanistan	3	165	55

ODI Rankings

#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	England	54	6,745	125
2	India	58	7,071	122
3	New Zealand	43	4,837	112
4	Australia	50	5,543	111
5	South Africa	47	5,193	110
6	Pakistan	50	4,888	98
7	Bangladesh	46	3,963	86
8	Sri Lanka	55	4,472	81
9	West Indies	49	3,740	76
10	Afghanistan	40	2,359	59

T20I Rankings

#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	Pakistan	26	7,365	283
2	England	16	4,253	266
3	South Africa	18	4,720	262
4	India	33	8,620	261
5	Australia	21	5,471	261
6	New Zealand	19	4,784	252
7	Afghanistan	20	4,694	235
8	Sri Lanka	21	4,808	229
9	West Indies	24	5,378	224
10	Bangladesh	20	4,468	223

English Premier League Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Liverpool	7	7	0	0	18	5	13	21
2	Manchester City	7	5	1	1	27	7	20	16
3	Leicester City	7	4	2	1	13	5	8	14
4	Arsenal	7	3	3	1	12	11	1	12
5	West Ham United	7	3	3	1	10	9	1	12
6	Tottenham Hotspur	7	3	2	2	14	9	5	11
7	Chelsea	7	3	2	2	14	13	1	11
8	Bournemouth	7	3	2	2	13	12	1	11
9	Crystal Palace	7	3	2	2	6	7	-1	11
10	Manchester United	7	2	3	2	9	7	2	9
11	Burnley	7	2	3	2	10	9	1	9
12	Sheffield United	7	2	2	3	7	7	0	8
13	Wolverhampton Wanderers	7	1	4	2	9	11	-2	7
14	Southampton	7	2	1	4	7	11	-4	7
15	Everton	7	2	1	4	6	12	-6	7
16	Brighton and Hove Albion	7	1	3	3	5	10	-5	6
17	Norwich City	7	2	0	5	9	16	-7	6
18	Aston Villa	7	1	2	4	8	11	-3	5
19	Newcastle United	7	1	2	4	4	13	-9	5
20	Watford	7	0	2	5	4	20	-16	2

Spanish La Liga Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Real Madrid	7	4	3	0	12	6	6	15
2	Granada	7	4	2	1	13	6	7	14
3	Atletico Madrid	7	4	2	1	7	4	3	14
4	Barcelona	7	4	1	2	16	10	6	13
5	Real Sociedad	7	4	1	2	12	7	5	13
6	Sevilla	7	4	1	2	10	7	3	13
7	Athletic Bilbao	7	3	3	1	7	3	4	12
8	Villarreal	7	3	2	2	18	11	7	11
9	Valencia	7	2	3	2	10	11	-1	9
10	Real Valladolid	7	2	3	2	7	8	-1	9
11	Eibar	7	2	2	3	9	9	0	8
12	Levante	7	2	2	3	8	9	-1	8
13	Osasuna	7	1	5	1	5	6	-1	8
14	Alaves	7	2	2	3	4	7	-3	8
15	Real Betis	7	2	2	3	10	15	-5	8
16	Getafe	7	1	4	2	10	11	-1	7
17	Celta Vigo	7	1	3	3	4	9	-5	6
18	Espanyol	7	1	2	4	4	12	-8	5
19	Real Mallorca	7	1	1	5	4	12	-8	4
20	Leganes	7	0	2	5	3	10	-7	2



Men's Top Five

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Novak Djokovic	32	9,865	16
2	Rafael Nadal	33	9,225	16
3	Roger Federer	38	7,130	17
4	Daniil Medvedev	23	5,305	25
5	Dominic Thiem	26	4,415	22



Prajesh Gunneswaran
Rank 84 ▼ 3 spots



Sumit Nagal
Rank 135 ▲ 26 spots

Women's Top Five

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Ashleigh Barty	23	6,446	15
2	Karolina Pliskova	27	6,125	21
3	Elina Svitolina	25	5,320	22
4	Naomi Osaka	21	5,011	17
5	Simona Halep	28	4,907	17



Ankita Raina
Rank 191 ▼ 2 spots



Y. Pranjala
Rank 337 ▲ 2 spots

German Bundesliga Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Bayern Munich	6	4	2	0	19	6	13	14
2	RB Leipzig	6	4	1	1	14	6	8	13
3	SC Freiburg	6	4	1	1	13	5	8	13
4	Schalke	6	4	1	1	13	6	7	13
5	M'gladbach	6	4	1	1	10	5	5	13
6	Bayer Leverkusen	6	4	1	1	11	7	4	13
7	Wolfsburg	6	3	3	0	9	4	5	12
8	Borussia Dortmund	6	3	2	1	17	9	8	11
9	Eintracht Frankfurt	6	3	1	2	9	8	1	10
10	Hertha Berlin	6	2	1	3	9	11	-2	7
11	Werder Bremen	6	2	1	3	10	14	-4	7
12	Hoffenheim	6	1	2	3	4	10	-6	5
13	FC Augsburg	6	1	2	3	7	14	-7	5
14	Fortuna Dusseldorf	6	1	1	4	8	11	-3	4
15	1. FC Union Berlin	6	1	1	4	6	12	-6	4
16	Mainz	6	1	0	5	5	16	-11	3
17	Cologne	6	1	0	5	4	15	-11	3
18	SC Paderborn 07	6	0	1	5	8	17	-9	1

Italian Serie A Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Inter Milan	6	6	0	0	13	2	11	18
2	Juventus	6	5	1	0	11	5	6	16
3	Atalanta	6	4	1	1	15	9	6	13
4	Napoli	6	4	0	2	15	10	5	12
5	Roma	6	3	2	1	11	9	2	11
6	Lazio	6	3	1	2	11	4	7	10
7	Cagliari	6	3	1	2	9	6	3	10
8	Torino	6	3	0	3	10	10	0	9
9	Parma	6	3	0	3	8	9	-1	9
10	Florentina	6	2	2	2	11	10	1	8
11	Bologna	6	2	2	2	7	7	0	8
12	Udinese	6	2	1	3	3	5	-2	7
13	Sassuolo	6	2	0	4	11	12	-1	6
14	Verona	6	1	3	2	4	5	-1	6
15	Brescia	6	2	0	4	7	9	-2	6
16	AC Milan	6	2	0	4	4	8	-4	6
17	Lecce	6	2	0	4	6	12	-6	6
18	Genoa	6	1	2	3	7	13	-6	5
19	Spal	6	1	0	5	5	13	-8	3
20	Sampdoria	6	1	0	5	4	14	-10	3

Elgar and de Kock keep Proteas afloat

Ashwin's craft fetches him five; Jadeja picks up 200th Test wicket



Pugnacious: Dean Elgar slugged it out in the middle, growing in confidence as the innings progressed. ■K.R. DEEPAK

SA IN INDIA

S. DINAKAR
VISAKHAPATNAM
Dean Elgar's courage and application takes us to the heart of Test cricket. The South African opener is tough, fights as if his life depends on the innings.

In early 2018, on a volatile surface at the Wanderers, that Bullring, where the ball seamed, bounced off a length, or shot through, Elgar withstood a nasty blow on the helmet from Jasprit Bumrah to carry his bat with a blood-and-guts 86.

Contrast
And here, on the third day of the first Freedom Test on Friday, the 32-year-old South African, in his next Test innings against India, dropped anchor in the vastly different sub-continental conditions for a monumental 160. The innings oozed character. If Elgar slugged it out, Quinton de Kock, the smooth-stroking southpaw, galloped on his skills for a 111 of exquisite strokeplay at the ACA-VDCA ground.

There were more protagonists on an incident-filled day. R. Ashwin, conjuring moments of craft and beauty, scalped five with his off-spin while left-armer Ravindra Jadeja claimed his 200th Test wicket in his 44th Test.

South Africa, 385 for eight at stumps and 117 behind India's first innings score with two days left, has given itself a realistic chance of forcing a draw on a pitch where there is turn and and some variable bounce, but is by no means a minefield.

Weather will remain a factor, too, with scattered thunderstorms forecast on Saturday and Sunday. On pivotal day three, Elgar grew in stature. He got right behind the ball, was solid in defence and did not miss out on opportunities to score. His back-lift starts from around fourth slip but, crucially, once he gets his willow down, Elgar plays close to his body. This tightness in his game is his strength.

Saha's miss
Elgar was fortunate though on 74 when he was drawn into one outside the off-stump from Jadeja but 'keeper Wriddhiman Saha fluffed the offering. As he grew in confidence, Elgar slog-swept, lofted and whipped the ball, using his feet. In fact, this was a surface where, if the batsman employed his footwork he looked far more secure than someone who played from the crease. Eventually, Elgar's top-edged sweep was splendidly



Turning things around: Quinton de Kock's strokeplay had a touch of the ethereal. ■K.R. DEEPAK

picked up by Cheteshwar Pujara to end a captivating 164-run sixth-wicket partnership with de Kock – Jadeja's 200th. The manner in which de Kock, all freshness and freedom, stroked the ball on this track seemed ethereal. He picked the length early, consequently had more time, and got himself into terrific positions for strokes on both sides. He skipped forward to drive the ball gloriously through covers, with an amalgam of timing and placement. Or wristed or lofted with authority. The gifted de Kock played the ball late, his late cut off Ashwin was as delicate as they come. And he reached

STAT SPHERE

1 Jadeja is the fastest left-arm bowler to reach 200 wickets (44 Tests), eclipsing Herath (47)

Fewest Tests to 200 wickets among left-armers

44	Jadeja
47	Herath
49	Johnson
50	Starc
51	Bedi & Akram

2 Jadeja is the second fastest Indian to 200 wickets in the longest format

Fewest Tests to 200 wickets among Indians

36	Ashwin
----	--------

44 Jadeja

46 Harbhajan

47 Kumble

48 Chandrasekhar

7 Number of Test centuries Elgar has scored since the start of 2017, the most by an opener

27 Number of five-wicket hauls for Ashwin in Tests. Besides, he has returned a match-haul of 10 wickets seven times

Most centuries scored by batsmen who began their career with a pair (two zeroes) on Test debut

20	Gooch
16	Atapattu
12	Elgar
11	Anwar

SCOREBOARD

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS
502 for seven decl.
SOUTH AFRICA – 1ST INNINGS
Dean Elgar c Pujara b Jadeja 160 (287b, 18x4, 4x6), Aiden Markram b Ashwin 5 (21b, 1x4), Theunis de Bruyn c Saha b Ashwin 4 (25b, 1x4), Dane Piedt b Jadeja 0 (4b), Temba Bavuma lbw b Ishant Sharma 18 (26b, 3x4), Faf du Plessis c Pujara b Ashwin 55 (103b, 8x4, 1x6), Quinton de Kock b Ashwin 111 (163b, 16x4, 2x6), Senuran Muthusamy (batting) 12 (60b, 1x4), Vernon Philander b Ashwin 0 (10b), Keshav Maharaj (batting) 3 (14b); Extras (b-8, lb-4, nb-5): 17. Total (for eight wkts. in 118 overs): 385.
FALL OF WICKETS
1-14 (Markram, 7.1 overs), 2-31 (de Bruyn, 16.3), 3-34 (Piedt, 17.3), 4-63 (Bavuma, 26.1), 5-178 (du Plessis, 57.3), 6-342 (Elgar, 99.3), 7-370 (de Kock, 109.3), 8-376 (Philander, 113.2).
INDIA BOWLING
Ishant 14-2-44-1, Shami 15-3-40-0, Ashwin 41-11-128-5, Jadeja 37-4-116-2, Vihari 9-1-38-0, Rohit 2-1-7-0.

by turning the ball away from the left-hander and castled him with one that came in with the arm. And Vernon Philander was bowled by a huge off-spinner. With South Africa revealing resolve and desire, there is plenty at stake over the last two days.

Putting selfie above sport

S. DINAKAR
VISAKHAPATNAM
Fans run on to the ground disrupting play for various reasons. As early as in the 70s, Brijesh Patel received a kiss on the cheek by a lady fan who breached security during the India-West Indies Test at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium.

And in countries such as Australia and England, we have streakers who sprint across the ground just for 'fun' or to highlight a cause. On the third afternoon at the ACA-VDCA ground here, a local man managed to hoodwink security for a different reason – taking a selfie with an India cricketer! The entire stadium was in



Off with you! Ajinkya Rahane attempts to shoo off the intruder. ■K.R. DEEPAK

splits when the man, with an official chasing him, got close enough to Ajinkya Rahane for a selfie! The intruder was soon escorted off the ground but not before he had got the job done!

Going back to the roots worked: Ashwin

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM

R. Ashwin's last five-wicket haul in Tests was in Sri Lanka, August 2017. On Friday, the senior off-spinner once again scalped five in an innings. During this period, his fortunes have been mixed. He has been troubled by injuries, found himself out of the Test XI and also from the shorter formats.

Ashwin said going back to his roots helped him stay focused. "To stay away from not playing cricket itself is very tough for me. In order to substitute that, I played whatever games I got."

South African opener Dean Elgar said, "We knew it was going to be tough. We knew we were going to be facing quality bowlers on a wearing pitch. But I always had the hope that if we knuckle down, apply ourselves, and build a platform to express ourselves, we could always get to the position we are in." About inputs from batting consultant Amol Muzumdar, Elgar said, "He's an experienced player and is giving you intel on conditions. He might just say one thing that might sit on your head the whole time."

'The Hundred' decision only after IPL: Harbhajan

S. DINAKAR
VISAKHAPATNAM

Harbhajan Singh finds himself in the eye of a gathering storm. The off-spinning great has signed up for The Hundred, a 100-ball-an-innings tournament in England next July.

He is an overseas cricketer at the draft with a base price of £100,000. However, the BCCI bars any current player – even among retired players, it gives NOCs to these leagues only under exceptional circumstances – and the 39-year-old Harbhajan finds himself in a dilemma.

Will he announce his retirement from all cricket run by the BCCI, including the IPL, before taking the plunge into The Hundred?

Harbhajan, commenting here for Star Sports, was typically candid in his response to a question from *The Hindu*. He said, "Yes, I have given my name for the draft. But I will take a decision only after playing the IPL next year for the Chennai Super Kings. The Hundred is only after the IPL." The BCCI, on its part, has said it was not aware of any Indian cricketer signing up for The Hundred. This year, Yuvraj Singh was permitted



Harbhajan Singh. ■K.R. DEEPAK

by the Board to play in the Global Twenty20 in Canada, but that was only after he had retired from all BCCI competitions. About the South African batting resistance on day three, Harbhajan said, "The Indian spinners are used to really conducive tracks in the country. But this pitch is not giving them as much help. That is why they are struggling here." While R. Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja are trump cards at home, Harbhajan said India needed to groom a group of spinners around them. "Kuldeep Yadav got a five-wicket haul in his last Test for India, at Sydney. There is another wrist spinner, Rahul Chahar, who can be tried out in Test cricket."

Nothing goes right for India

Lee, Luus and bowlers script a thumping win for SA

SA-WOMEN IN INDIA

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
SURAT
For once, the Women in Blue had no clue – with bat or ball. They were hammered by a South African side that was playing for pride in the final match of the T20I series at the Lalbhai Contractor Stadium. The Indians won the series 3-1. The manner in which they lost – by 105 runs, their biggest in T20Is – must have been a shock for the full house on Friday.

On song
The fans were treated to a superb exhibition of stroke-play by Lizelle Lee (84, 47b) and captain Sune Luus (62, 56b). They put on 144 for the first wicket. After the way they failed to read the Indian spinners in the previous games, not many would have expected the South African batters to explode in such a stunning manner. Poonam Yadav, the spearhead, and the rest of the spinners were dispatched



A lot to cheer about: Despite losing the fifth game badly, India won the T20I series 3-1. ■VIJAY SONEJI

mercilessly all around the park by Lee & Luus. The openers treated the seamers with disdain too. Mansi Joshi, one of the three changes the host made for this match, was singled out for punishment in the fourth over. After Luus pulled the first ball through mid-wicket for four, Lee took over. Her extra-cover drive was probably the shot of the night as 17 came off the over. Lee displayed good footwork and played strokes all around, even scooping Arundhati Reddy under her 'keeper's head to reach her

fifty off just 28 balls. By the time her top-edge off Poonam was caught well by Shafali Verma, running a few yards at mid-wicket, she had batted India out of the game. The South African seamers ensured just that, sending half the Indian side back to the dugout within the first six overs. The teams will now travel to Vadodara for a three-match ODI series, beginning on October 9. The South Africans will be sitting in the team bus in a happier frame of mind on Saturday morning.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA
Lizelle Lee c Shafali b Poonam 84 (47b, 15x4, 1x6), Sune Luus st. Taniya b Harmanpreet 62 (56b, 7x4), Mignon du Preez c Poonam b Arundhati 13 (7b, 2x4), Nadine de Klerk (not out) 9 (6b, 1x4), Laura Wolvaardt (not out) 4 (4b); Extras (lb-1, w-2): 3; Total (for three wkts. in 20 overs): 175.
FALL OF WICKETS
1-144 (Lee, 15.5 overs), 2-161 (du Preez, 17.6), 3-163 (Luus, 18.3).
INDIA BOWLING
Deepti 3-0-26-0, Mansi 4-0-49-0, Anuja 4-0-32-0, Poonam 4-0-34-1, Arundhati 4-0-28-1,

Harmanpreet 1-0-5-1.
INDIA
Shafali Verma c Lee b Ismail 4 (8b, 1x4), Smriti Mandhana c Luus b de Klerk 5 (10b, 1x4), Je-mimah Rodrigues lbw b Ismail 0 (1b), Harmanpreet Kaur b Khaka 1 (6b), Deepti Sharma c Bosch b de Klerk 2 (8b), Veda Krishnamurthy lbw b Bosch 26 (24b, 3x4), Taniya Bhatia c Luus b Bosch 0 (2b), Arundhati Reddy c Luus b de Klerk 22 (25b, 3x4), Mansi Joshi (not out) 3 (16b), Anuja Patil b Shangase 3 (3b), Poonam Yadav b Shangase 0 (2b); Extras (lb-2, w-2): 4; Total (in 17.3 overs): 70.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-4 (Shafali, 2.2 overs), 2-4 (Je-mimah, 2.3), 3-10 (Harmanpreet, 3.4), 4-13 (Smriti, 5.1), 5-13 (Deepti, 5.3), 6-13 (Taniya, 6.2), 7-62 (Veda, 13.4), 8-65 (Arundhati, 15.2), 9-70 (Anuja, 17.1).
SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING
Ismail 4-1-11-2, Khaka 3-1-9-1, de Klerk 4-1-18-3, Bosch 3-0-13-2, Luus 3-1-17-0, Shangase 0.3-0-0-2.
Toss: South Africa.
Player-of-the-match: Lee; **Player-of-the-series:** Deepti. South Africa won fifth T20I by 105 runs, India clinched series 3-1.

Brijesh leads player group at BCCI AGM

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

Former BCCI president Anurag Thakur's brother Arun Singh Dhumal and Union Home Minister Amit Shah's son Jay Shah are the two with political links who figure as representatives of the 38 BCCI members (Cricket Association of Puducherry included) for the AGM and election to be held here on October 23. While Arun was elected president of the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association recently, Jay did not contest the Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) election. Among the cricketers, Karnataka's Brijesh Patel is eminently qualified to hold a senior position in the Apex Council as he has been in cricket administration for a long time. It remains to be seen if he gets the support of those who will be calling the shots when the time comes for nominations.

The other well-known players who have been nominated to represent their States are Sourav Ganguly (Bengal), Mohammad Azharuddin (Hyderabad), Jaydev Shah (Saurashtra) and Harvinder Singh (Indian Railways). There are also others like Rajat Sharma who ever since he became the DDOCA President, has been freely talked as the future BCCI President and seasoned Administrator Rajiv Shukla. With only six positions in the BCCI Apex Council and two in the IPL Governing council available, only a handful can aspire to become Apex Council members. Electoral officer N. Gopalaswami said he would scrutinise representatives of the BCCI members who are deemed to be BCCI Constitution-compliant by the CoA. The valid list will be announced on October 10.



Thriller: Pacers pipped Kings by one point. ■VIVEK BENDRE

Dalilah sets 400m hurdles WR

IAAF World Athletics Championships DOHA2019
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DOHA
Dalilah Muhammad of the United States set a new World record as she powered to victory in the 400m hurdles on Friday. The Olympic champion took gold with a time of 52.16 seconds, bettering her record of 52.20 set in July.



Peerless: It was Dalilah Muhammad's night at the Khalifa Stadium on Friday. ■GETTY IMAGES

Meanwhile on Thursday, Katarina Johnson-Thompson deposited her great rival Nafissatou Thiam as heptathlon champion when two other 2017 titleholders also surrendered their crowns. Johnson-Thompson's victory could not be described as a shock but Salwa Eid Naser's victory in the 400 metres caused shockwaves. The 21-year-old Bahraini recorded the third fastest time in history of 48.14 seconds.

The results:
Men: Decathlon: 1. Niklas Kaul (Ger) 8,691 points, 2. Maicel

Uibo (Est) 8,604, 3. Damian Warner (Can) 8,529.
Women: 400m hurdles: 1. Dalilah Muhammad (USA) 52.16s (WR, Old: 52.20, self), 2. Sydney McLaughlin (USA) 52.23, 3. Russell Clayton (Jam) 53.74.
400m: 1. Salwa Eid Naser (BRN) 48.14s, 2. Shaunae Miller-Uibo (Bah) 48.37, 3. Shericka Jackson (Jam) 49.47.
Shot put: 1. Gong Lijao (Chn) 19.55m, 2. Danielle Thomas-Dodd (Jam) 19.47, 3. Christina Schwanzitz (Ger) 19.17.
Heptathlon: 1. Katarina Johnson-Thompson (GBr) 6981

points, 2.Nafissatou Thiam (Bel) 6,677, 3. Verena Preiner (Aut) 6,560.
Indians in action today
■ Men's javelin qualification (Shivpal Singh, 7 p.m.).
■ Women's 4x400m relay, semifinal (10.25 p.m.).
■ Men's 4x400m relay, semifinal (10.55 p.m.).
■ Men's marathon (T. Gopi, 2.29 a.m. on Sunday).

Pacers sneak past Kings in overtime

NBA

NANDAKUMAR MARAR
MUMBAI
Sacramento Kings and Indiana Pacers put on a breathtaking show laced with pacy turnovers, precision shooting and powerplay under the board as the NBA India Games 2019 got off to a blistering start at the NSCI indoor stadium. The Pacers sneaked past the Kings 132-131 in the first pre-season game in India. The sides were locked 118-all in regulation time, leading to overtime.

NBA-style atmosphere
The game took off in NBA-style atmosphere, recreated in Mumbai, mixed with a fusion of music and dance at the breaks. Dikembe Mumtombo, the Congolese-American who made a name in the league with Houston Rockets, made an appearance during a break and guarded the basket as girls from the NBA Junior programme tried to evade the lanky figure under lights. The crowd stood in deference as the national an-

thems of India and the United States was sung, following which the stands erupted into a roar. NBA Commissioner Adam Silver and Nita Ambani, Reliance Foundation chairperson, walked out before the tip-off to present the match ball to the Kings and the Pacers. **The result:** Indiana Pacers 132 (Domantas Sabonis 22, Jeremy Lamb 20, Malcolm Brodgon 15) bt Sacramento Pacers 131 (Buddy Field 28, Harrison Barnes 21, DeArron Fox 16). (Regulation time 118-118).

TV PICKS

India v South Africa: 1st Test, fourth day, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.
Hero Women's Indian Open golf: DSport, Noon
NBA: Sony Ten 1 & 3 (SD & HD), 7 p.m.
Pakistan v Sri Lanka: 1st T20I, Sony Six (SD & HD), 7 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
IAAF World Championships: Star Sports 3, 7 p.m. & SS Select 2 (SD & HD) 9 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Murray loses, but happy with progress

BEIJING
Andy Murray said on Friday his comeback from hip surgery was progressing better than expected despite losing 6-2, 7-6(3) to top seed Dominic Thiem in the China Open quarterfinals, but said: "I think this (week) was maybe the best in terms of how I played since I came back." AFP

Nadal out of Shanghai Masters with wrist injury

SHANGHAI
Rafael Nadal pulled out of next week's Shanghai Masters on Friday saying he had failed to recover from a wrist injury. It is the second year in a row that the 19-time Grand Slam champion will have failed to appear in Shanghai. AFP

Siddharth wins



Siddharth Marathe.
*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GURUGRAM

Wild card Siddharth Marathe defeated second seed Vansh Nandal 6-4, 7-6(4) in the boys final of the Asian under-14 tennis tournament on Friday.
The results (finals):
Boys: Siddharth Marathe bt Vansh Nandal 6-4, 7-6(4);
Doubles: Ayaan Arora & Harsh Fogaat bt Adith Amarnath & Samar Malhotra 6-3, 6-3.
Girls: Nandini Dixit bt Saumrit Jagatdeo Verma 6-1, 6-1.
Doubles: Riya Sachdeva & Nandini Dixit bt Vamika Sharma & Saijyani Banerjee 6-1, 5-7, [10-4].

Arsenal thrashes Liege

EUROPA LEAGUE

REUTERS LONDON

Arsenal's young guns dismantled Standard Liege 4-0 in the Europa League on Thursday.

Important results: Group A: Sevilla 1 (Hernandez 17) bt APOEL Nicosia 0. **Group C:** Krasnodar 1 (Ari 69) lost to Gefate 2 (Angel 36, 61). **Group E:** Lazio 2 (Milinkovic-Savic 64, Immobile 75) bt Rennes 1 (Morel 55). **Group F:** Arsenal 4 (Martinielli 13, 16, Willock 22, Ceballos 57) bt Standard Liege 0; Vitoria Guimaraes 0 lost to Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (N'Dicka 36).

Group H: CSKA Moscow 0 lost to Espanyol 2 (Wu 64, Campuzano 90+5). **Group I:** Saint-Etienne 1 (Kolodziecziak 13) drew with Wolfsburg 1 (William 15). **Group J:** Istanbul Basaksehir 1 (Visca 55) drew with Borussia Monchengladbach 1 (Herrmann 90+1); Wolfsburg 1 (Lienl 51) drew with Roma 1 (Spinazzola 27). **Group K:** Besiktas 0 lost to Wolves 1 (Boly 90+3). **Group L:** AZ Alkmaar 0 drew with Manchester United 0.

ENGAGEMENTS

At Coimbatore
Cricket: CDCA league, PSGIMS 'A' & 'C' grounds, 9.30 a.m.
At Erode
Snooker: Chinthamani Memorial open tournament, S.S. Sports Academy, 9 a.m.
At Tirunelveli
Cricket: Junior Super Kings inter-school T20 tournament, ICL grounds, 9 a.m.

Tamil Nadu coasts to another win

Vijay delivers on his return aided by Aparajith

HAZARE TROPHY

SPORTS BUREAU JAIPUR

M. Vijay making a return to domestic cricket delivered for his side with a brilliant 117 (131b, 14x4) to help Tamil Nadu beat Jammu and Kashmir by eight wickets, its fifth win in as many matches, in an Elite Group C match of Vijay Hazare Trophy at the KL Saini stadium here on Friday.

Electing to field first, TN restricted Jammu and Kashmir to 238 for nine in 50 overs with some tight bowling towards the end especially.

TN went in with two changes. Vijay replaced N. Jagadeesan, who has not had a great run with the bat so far, while R. Sai Kishore came in for C. Hari Nishanth to add teeth to the spin bowling attack.

And the left-arm spinner made good his selection with an outstanding spell of two



Making it count: M. Vijay led Tamil Nadu's chase with a brilliant 117. ■VIJAY SONEJI

for 17 from his 10 overs. This included the initial breakthrough in the 11th over when he dismissed opener

Jatin Wadhwan.

Quick wickets
For J&K, opener Qamran Iq-

bal top scored with 67 followed by middle-order batsman Shubham Singh Pundir, who made 66, and

Poonacha gets past Dalwinder

To meet Goveas in final; Sowjanya to take on Prerna

NATL. TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN NEW DELHI

Top seed Niki Poonacha overcame a slow start to subdue the energetic Dalwinder Singh 2-6, 7-5, 6-3 with a crafty performance in the semifinals of the Fenesta National tennis championship here on Friday.

In the final, Poonacha will be challenged by second seed Aryan Goveas. The latter put up a vibrant performance to tame the big game of Kunal Anand 6-4, 6-2.

It was a dramatic turnaround for Niki, who was constantly cheered by coach Su-

jith Sachidanand.

In the women's section, it was experience that had the final say, as top seed Sowjanya Bavisetti beat Vaidehi Chaudhary 6-3, 7-5 while four-time champion Prerna Bhambri outplayed Jagmeet Kaur 6-2, 6-1.

In the under-18 boys event, the diminutive Udit Gogoi fought past Rohan Mehra in straight sets. He will challenge Madhwin Kamath, who beat Mann Shah.

The results: Men: Semifinals: Niki Poonacha bt Dalwinder Singh 2-6, 7-5, 6-3; Aryan Goveas bt Kunal Anand 6-4, 6-2. **Doubles (final):** Ishaque Eqbal & Mohit Mayur w/o Niki Poona-

cha & S.D. Prajwal Dev.
Women: Semifinals: Sowjanya Bavisetti bt Vaidehi Chaudhary 6-3, 7-5; Prerna Bhambri bt Jagmeet Kaur 6-2, 6-1. **Doubles (final):** Sowjanya Bavisetti & Rishika Sunkara bt Sai Dedeeppya & Sara Yadav 6-2, 6-3.

Under-18 boys: Semifinals: Udit Gogoi bt Rohan Mehra 6-2, 7-5; Madhwin Kamath bt Mann Maulik Shah 6-3, 6-2. **Doubles (final):** Madhwin Kamath & Mann Maulik Shah bt Boopathy Sakthivel & Udit Gogoi 7-5, 6-2.

Under-18 girls: Semifinals: Rashmika Shrivalli Bhamidipaty bt Prerna Vichare 6-0, 6-1; Sandeep Singh Rao bt Reshma Maruri 4-6, 6-2, 6-4. **Doubles (final):** Prerna Vichare & Sarah Dev bt Sanjana Sirmalla & Sudipta Senthilkumar 6-4, 6-2.

Abhilash gets past Ali

NATL. BOXING

Y.B. SARANGI BADDI (HP)

Promising Delhi lad Abhilash withstood a strong challenge from Mohammad Ali of Uttar Pradesh to record an impressive 3-2 victory in a gripping 69kg first round bout on the opening day of the National boxing championships here on Friday.

The 19-year-old Abhilash, a Khelo India silver medallist and a two-time National youth bronze medal winner, came up with straight punches and upper cuts against Ali.

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) had to overcome factional tussles in Tamil Nadu and Manipur before finalising the draws late on

Thursday evening.
Other important results (preliminary rounds): 52kg: Siddharth Solanki (Del) bt Mewa Singh (Chd) 5-0. **57kg:** P. Appalaraju (AP) bt Rahul Kumar (JK) RSC-R2. **60kg:** Fahijas Rahman (Ker) bt Santosh Barali (D&D) 3-2; Sahil (Har) bt Varun Phaartyal (Utk) 5-0; Rohit Chavan (Mah) bt Mazhar Hussain (WB) 3-2; Ashish (AIP) bt Ashok Patil (Goa) 5-0.

63kg: Yogesh Tokas (Del) bt Bittu Kanwal (Utk) 5-0; Rudhra Pratap (Bih) bt Sahdev Hooda (AIP) 3-2; Jimil Thomas (Ker) bt Apujam Malemnganba (Man) 5-0.

Sachin Dalal (Har) bt Subam Gurung (Meg) 5-0; Akash Sangwan (SSCB) bt Tiakumzuk Jamir (Nag) RSC-R3; Rohit Kumar (Chd) bt Chandler Mohan (HP) 3-2; Yash Goud (Mah) bt V. Praveen Kumar (TS) 5-0.

Under-16: Sankalp Gupta (3) lost to Rudik Makarian (Rus, 4);

Vijay Hazare Trophy scores

ELITE: Group A (Bengaluru): Chhattisgarh v Goa, Hyderabad v Mumbai. *Matches washed out*

Group B (Vadodara): Delhi 148 in 37.4 overs (Krunal Pandya four for 34) bt Baroda 128 in 33.2 overs (Navdeep Saini three for 24)

■ Odisha 207 for nine in 46 overs (Sandeep Patnaik 44, Govinda Poddar 64, Sujit Lenka 34 n.o., Harshal Patel three for 56) lost to Haryana 208 for six in 43.5 overs (Nitin Saini 44, Jayant Yadav 67, Sumit Kumar 64 n.o.)

■ Himachal Pradesh v Uttar Pradesh. *Match washed out*

Group C (Jaipur): Jammu & Kashmir 238 for nine in 50 overs (Qamran Iqbal 67, Shubham Pundir 66, Abdul Samad 50) lost to Tamil Nadu 239 for two in 48 overs (M. Vijay 117, B. Aparajith 86 n.o.)

■ Madhya Pradesh 282 for seven in 50 overs (Naman Ojha 130, Anand Bais 61, Diwesh Pathania four for 50) lost to Services 283 for three in 47 overs (Ravi Chauhan

118, Rahul Singh 109)

■ Tripura 285 for eight in 50 overs (Bishal Ghosh 128, Tanmay Mishra 56) bt Rajasthan 238 in 47 overs (Mahipal Lomror 71, Ashok Menaria 38, Ajoy Sarkar three for 58)

PLATE (Dehradun): Chandigarh 166 for seven in 20 overs (Preet Kamal Singh 34, Pritam Das three for 26) bt Assam 145 in 19.5 overs (Swarupam Purkayastha 32, Abu Nchim 31, Barinder Sran three for 25, Bipul Sharma three for 14)

■ Mizoram v Uttarakhand. *Match washed out*

■ Nagaland 24 for two in 6.4 overs v Puducherry. *No result*

Saturday's matches (9 a.m. start)

Group A (Bengaluru): Andhra v Mumbai, Hyderabad v Jharkhand

Group B (Vadodara): Baroda v Haryana, Delhi v Maharashtra, Punjab v Vidarbha

Plate (Dehradun): Arunachal Pradesh v Sikkim, Manipur v Meghalaya

Srihari stuns Sreeshwan

YOUTH CHESS

RAKESH RAO MUMBAI

Tamil Nadu's L.R. Srihari made his presence felt by stunning top seed M. Sreeshwan in 44 moves to emerge the leader of the under-14 section in the World Youth chess here on Friday.

In the under-18 section, second seed R. Praggnanandhaa beat Georgian Nikoloz Petriashvili in 40 moves to rejoin the leaders.

Important third-round results: Boys: Under-18: P. Iniyan (3.5) drew with Aryan Gholami (Iri, 3); R. Praggnanandhaa (3.5) bt Nikoloz Petriashvili (Geo, 3); Valentin Buckles (Ger, 3) drew with Shant Sargsyan (Arm, 3); Szymon Gumalarz (Pol, 3) drew with Mitrabha Guha (3); Aditya Mittal (3.5) bt Rahul Srivasthav (2.5).

Under-16: Sankalp Gupta (3) lost to Rudik Makarian (Rus, 4);

Lucas Constamilan Tomiello (Bra, 3) lost to Aronyak Ghosh (4); Raja Rithwik (2.5) lost to Hans Moke Niemann (USA, 3.5); Kushagra Mohan (3) drew with Pavas Santiago Avila (Col, 3). **Under-14:** L.R. Srihari (4) bt M. Sreeshwan (3); Alex Kolay (USA, 3.5) drew with Aydin Sulemanli (Aze, 3.5); Aditya Samant (3.5) bt Collin Colbow (Ger, 3).

Girls: Under-18: Vantika Agarwal (3) drew with Assel Serikbay (Kaz, 3); Viktoria Radeva (Bul, 3.5) bt Tarini Goyal (2.5); Ellen Frederica Nilssen (Den, 3) drew with A. Harishini (3).

Under-16: C. Lakshmi (3) lost to Leya Garifullina (Rus, 4); Nazerke Nurgali (Kaz, 4) bt Saina Salonika (3); Govhar Beydullayeva (Aze, 3.5) bt Nityata Jain (2.5); Bristy Mukherjee (2) lost to Mrudul Dehankar (3).

Under-14: Dhanya Patel (3.5) drew with Eline Roebers (Ned, 3.5); Rakshitta Ravi (3.5) bt Safiye Oykuk Ince (Tur, 3); Bat-Erdene Mungunzai (Mgl, 3.5) bt Divya Deshmukh (2.5).

TAMIL NADU ROUND-UP



Champion: The triumphant Concordia HSS (Vellore) squad with its reward. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Concordia the best

VELLORE: Concordia HSS (Vellore) scripted a five-wicket win over Sri V.D.S. Jain HSS (Tiruvannamalai) to emerge winner in the Vellore-Tiruvannamalai-Villupuram leg of the Junior Super Kings inter-school T20 tournament on Friday.
The scores: At Vellore (final): Sri V.D.S. Jain HSS (Tiruvannamalai) 86 in 17 overs lost to Concordia HSS (Vellore) 89 for five in 17.1 overs (E. Tamizharasan 31 n.o.).

At Madurai: SMBM MHSS (Dindigul) 193 for eight in 20 overs (M. Boopathi Vaishna Kumar 138) bt Le Chatelier MHSS (Madurai) 128 for seven in 20 overs (A. Mohamed Hafeez 33, Sanjay R. Kannan 30 n.o., M. Boopathi Vaishna Kumar three for 16).

Easy for Prem
ERODE: Twenty-five time State billiards champion Prem Prakash of Coimbatore outplayed P. Suresh of Erode

3-0 in a Group N clash of the Chinthamani Memorial open snooker tournament on Friday. Prem made a break of 87 in the third frame, the highest in the tournament so far, to wrap up the match.

The results: Group E: R. Loganathan (TNBSA) bt Murali (QBG) 3-1; Dinesh (Cbe) bt Chandrasekar (Ero) 3-0; Vivek (Tpr) bt Murali 3-1; Vivek bt Dinesh 3-1; Murali bt Chandrasekar 3-0.

Group J: Shanmugam (Slm) bt Velumani (Tpr) 3-2.

Group N: Prem Prakash (Cbe) bt Krishna Kumar (Slm) 3-0; Prem Prakash bt Suresh (Ero) 3-0; Jonah (TNBSA) bt Suresh 3-2; Nizam (Tpr) bt Krishna Kumar (Slm) 3-1; Suresh bt Krishna Kumar 3-0; Nizam bt Suresh 3-0.

Group R: Easwaramurthy (Ero) bt Shiva (Tpr) 3-0.

Bishop Heber triumphs
TIRUCHI: Bishop Heber defeated Cauvery College for Women 2-0 to win the

women's title in the Bharathidasan University inter-collegiate tennis tournament.

The results: Final: Bishop Heber College bt Cauvery College for Women 2-0. **Third place:** Bon Secours College for Women bt Nehru Memorial College 2-0.

Nanthakumar Kanna claims under-18 title

P.R. Nanthakumar Kanna won the title in the under-18 category at the district-level chess tournament organised by the Star Chess Foundation.

Final standings: Open: U-18: 1. P.R. Nanthakumar Kanna, 2. S. Harshini, 3. Raghav Shreyas.

U-14: 1. S.T. Baland Prajith, 2. Pradeesh Sreesanth, 3. J. Swetha. **U-12:** 1. Kishore Adhithya, 2. M. Sarabeshwaran, 3. J. Kishor. **U-10:** 1. J. Yashwanth, 2. J.U. Sumithra, 3. A. Trivikram. **Boys, U-8:** 1. P. Dharsan Ratnakar, 2. M. Vettrivel, 3. J.U. Sivapriyan.

Girls, U-8: 1. S.R. Deepshika, 2. R. Dharini, 3. G.K. Udhayanila.

Durgainathan scalps six

DINDIGUL: R. Durgainathan's six for 40 set up Yuvaraj's seven-wicket win over Play Boys in the DDCA first division league.

The scores: I div.: Play Boys 153 in 29.1 overs (T. Prathiban 29, R. Durgainathan six for 40) lost to Yuvaraj 154 for three in 23.2 overs (T. Rahul Chinju 38, T. Vignesh 26, S. Gunasekaran 32, P.V. Prathis Kumar 35 n.o.).

II div.: RVS SC 128 for seven in 24 overs (R. Vijay 32) bt Godson 100 in 22 overs (M.



Victorious: Bishop Heber, which won the Bharathidasan University inter-collegiate tennis tournament.

Hari Krishnan three for nine).

III div.: Aadith 111 in 20.2 overs (T. Mohamed Ashik 53, S. Velmurugan three for 23, A. Saravanan six for 23) lost to Classic 114 for five in 18.4 overs (S. Velmurugan 42, S. Anbalagan three for 23).

Arul excels

NAGERCOIL: S. Arul (four for 46 & 69) starred in Young's one-wicket win over Marthandam in the Kanyakumari DCA first division league. S. Moses

Sam Raj's all-round effort (91 & five for 40) went in vain.

The scores: Sunny 247 for eight in 40 overs (D. Sahaya Babin 37, N. Arunraj 33, L. Pradheesh Vishal 45, G. Godson 46, M. Binosh Mano three for 57, M. Ramesh three for 28) bt Sunshine 160 in 25.3 overs (M. Daniel Archer 55, G. Godson four for 41).

Packer 207 in 36.2 overs (J. Babin Christo 50, B. Ben Vijin 31) bt Sunshine 160 in 30.4 overs (Tamil Selvan 36, C. Rajiv

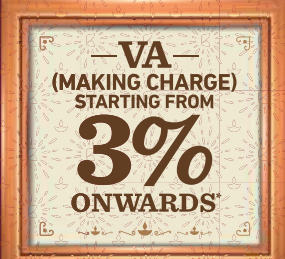
Kumar three for 29, Jerald Rogin four for 13).

Sunny 224 for seven in 40 overs (S.T. Natarajan 70, G. Godson 32, J. Samuel four for 39) bt Young 138 in 27.5 overs (S. Dinesh 31, R.H. Madav Subramonian three for 16, G. Godson three for 23); Sunshine 161 in 30.1 overs (A. Vinish 34, S. Berbin three for 28, J. Manikandan three for 27) bt Marthandam Friends 81 in 22.5 overs (R. Ragunath three for seven, C. Sanjith three for 18).

Marthandam 211 in 37.5 overs (S.B. Saravana Lal 39, S. Moses Sam Raj 91, S. Anand 38, S. Raja three for 40, S. Arul four for 46) lost to Young 212 for nine in 30.5 overs (S. Raja 31, S. Arul 69, Franklin Frandof 32 n.o., S. Moses Sam Raj five for 40).

V-90 170 in 38.4 overs (S. Dhanish Kumar 44, S. Raj Kabin 31, Ajmal Sherif three for 37) lost to Sunny 171 for eight in 38 overs (W. Antony Dhas 36, E. Samson Mesagine 48 n.o., Y. Asif Ahmed four for 19).

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